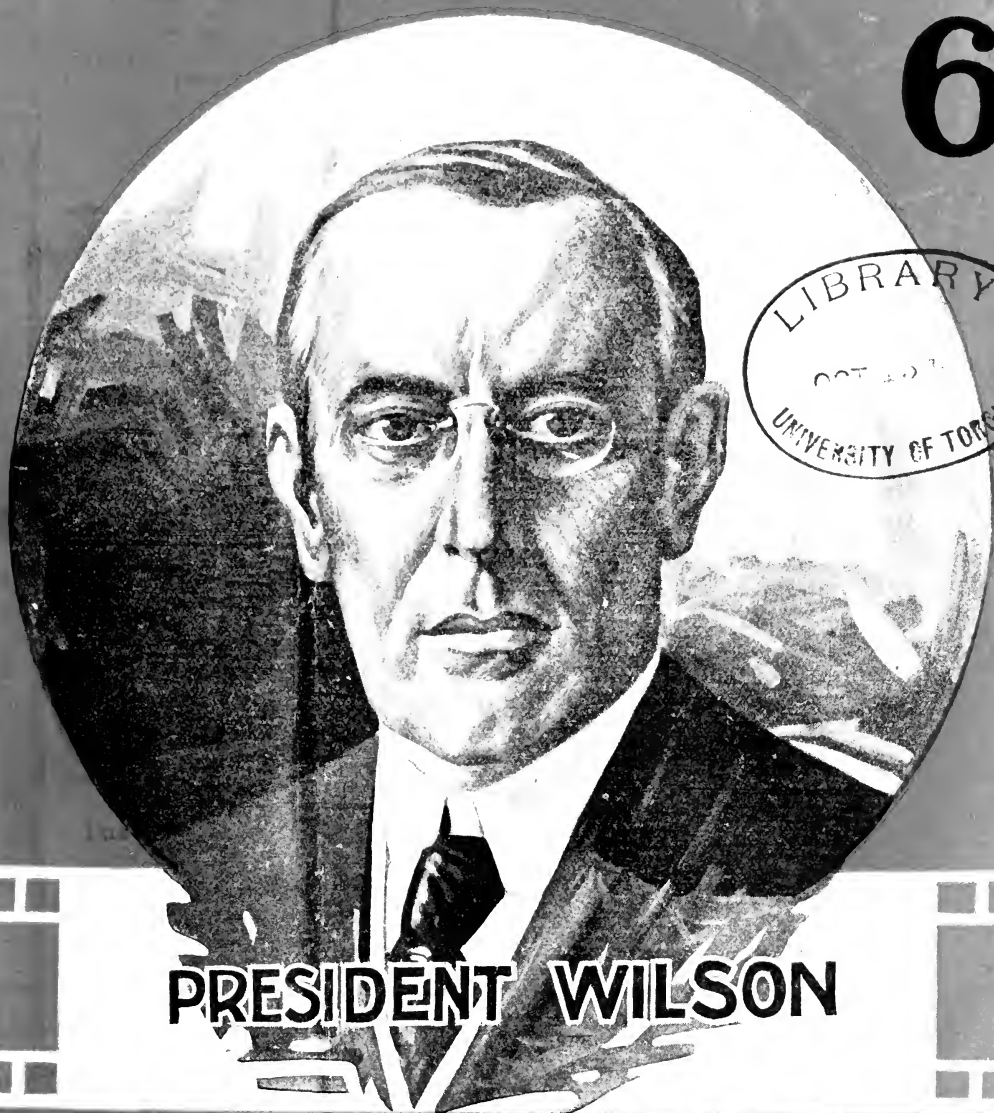


STEAD'S

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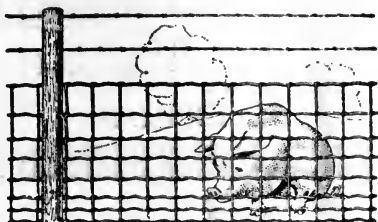


Fig. 15—Cyclone "Special"
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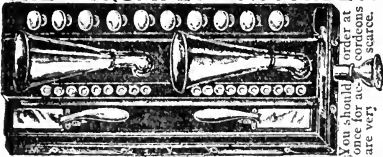
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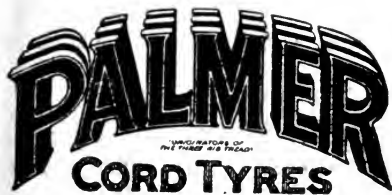
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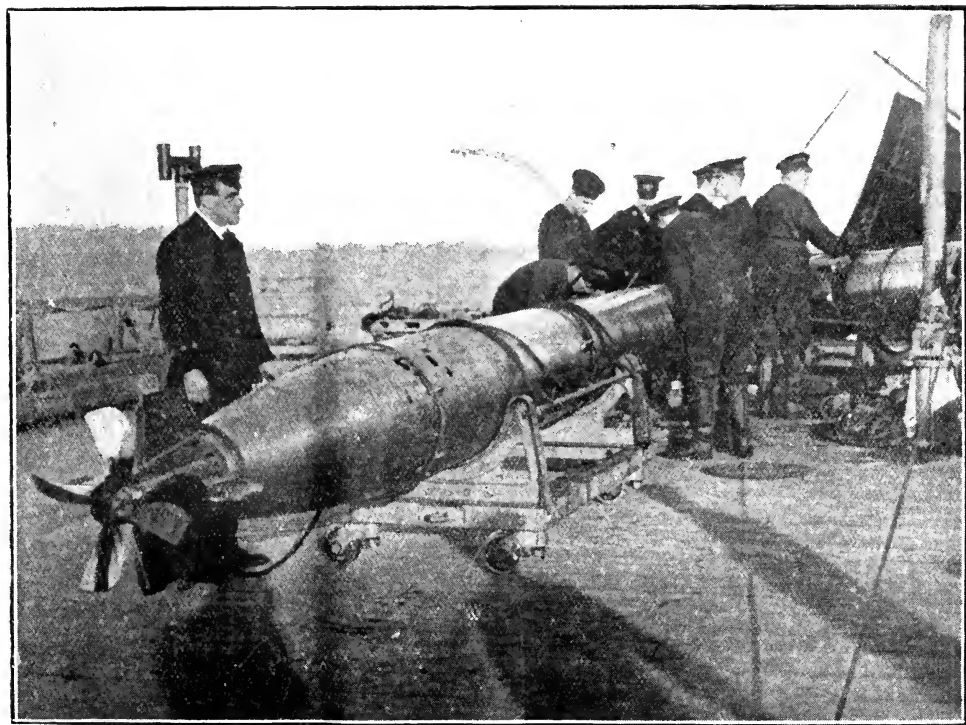
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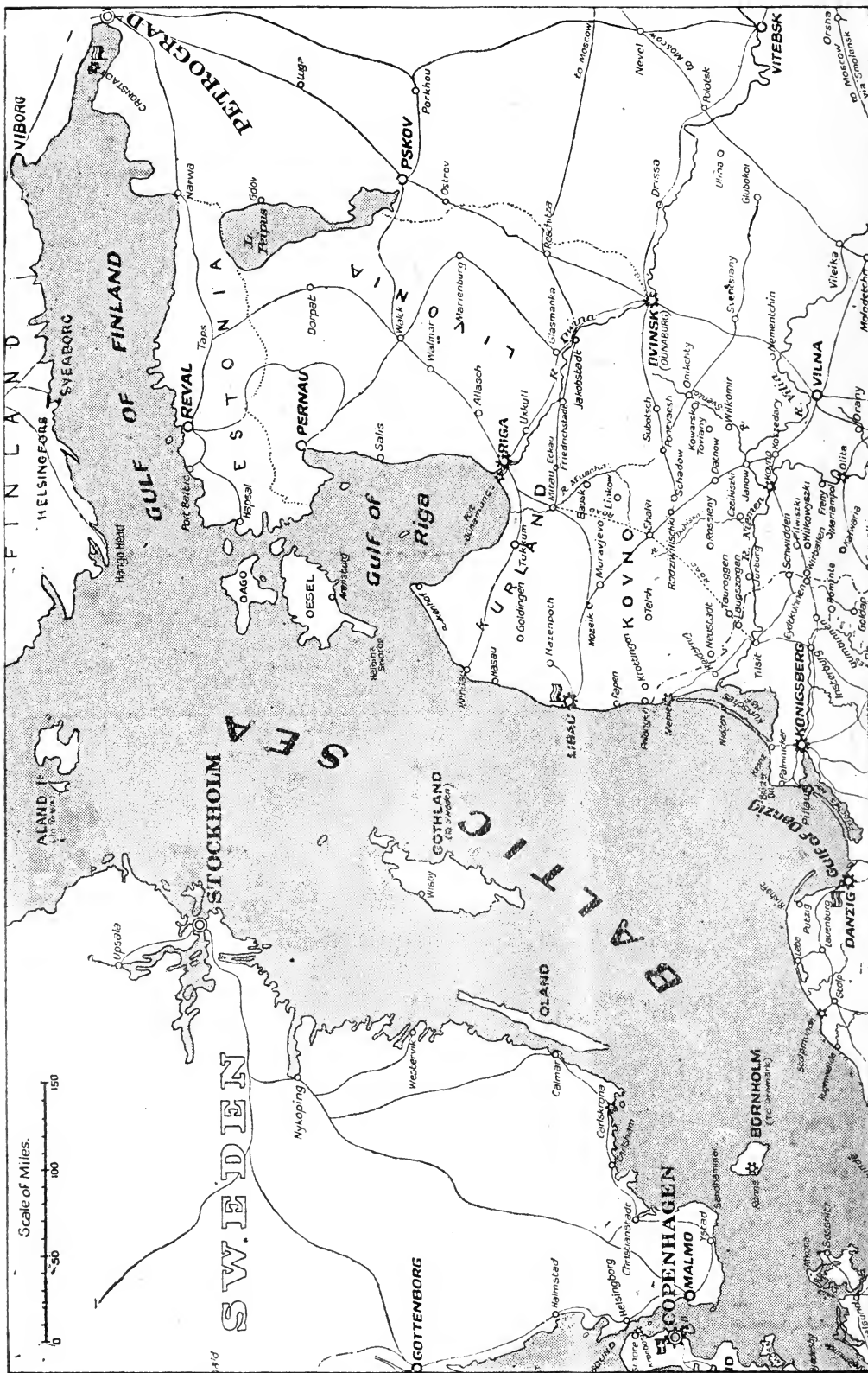
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A novel gun, described as an "air field machine gun"—presumably one that is fired by air pressure.

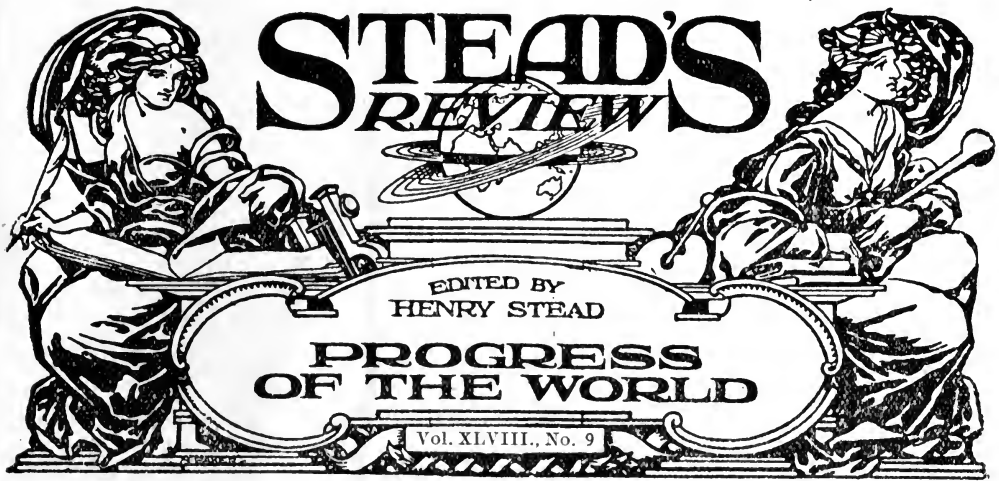


ON A BRITISH WARSHIP.

Shipping torpedoes and lowering them into submerged flat.



WHERE THE GERMAN FLEET IS NOW OPERATING.



OCTOBER 20, 1917.

Peace Prospects.

The anxiously expected second Note of the Pope has not yet been sent, at any rate, it has not been published. I am more convinced than ever that its receipt by the Allied and enemy Governments will mark the beginning of the end. In the inadequate notes in my last number, I gave a summary of the reasons why I considered that we might disregard the emphatic declarations of leading men amongst the Allies, that there could be no peace until Germany was soundly beaten. Why I regarded peace as not far off. Some of the things I anticipated would happen have since taken place. Especially has the expected happened concerning Alsace-Lorraine. Easily the most important occurrence of the last fourteen days is the brief announcement that Germany has offered to come to an arrangement with France concerning the Provinces in dispute, if in return France will make peace. A secret session of the Chamber of Deputies is to be held to consider the matter. Hitherto all peace suggestions emanating from Berlin has been incontinently turned down. Now, however, this special offer is to be deliberated.

Making Germany Democratised Herself.

I do not for a moment believe that the Germans would part with Alsace-Lorraine to France even to secure a separate peace with that country, but I am convinced that they will make some proposal for the future of the Provinces so reasonable that the French would gravely consider accepting it. The Provinces will be, in the end, I feel sure, neither German nor French. Other conditions for peace are being fulfilled. The evacuation of Belgium and Northern France was provided for when the principle, "no annexation, no indemnities," was adopted in Germany. The Kaiser has hastened the promised reform to the Prussian Upper House. Already that democratisation of Germany which President Wilson postulates as a necessary prelude to serious peace talk is taking place. As Mr. Balfour truly said last August, "Germany must work out her own salvation. . . . Nobody is fool enough to suppose that he can impose upon Germany a constitution made outside Germany. You do not mend matters by imposing a constitution even if you have the power to impose it. Even if to-morrow some great military catastrophe to Germany were

to put the Allied Powers in a position to say to her, 'You may like it or dislike it, but you shall adopt a constitution which meets our views of freedom, our views of what the Government of a civilised State ought to accept,' that has never succeeded, and it will never succeed. Nations work out their own schemes of liberty for themselves according to their own ideals, and on the basis of their own history and character, what has actually occurred to them in the past, what their hopes suggest to them for the future."

President Wilson the Deciding Factor.

I showed last month that in some ways the German method of Government was as democratic as the British, and a further examination of national constitutions discloses the fact that actually the President of the United States has, in America, a power almost as absolute as that of the Kaiser in Germany. The difference is that one achieves to the headship of the nation by the popular vote of his people, the other because he happens to be the son of his father. Undoubtedly, though, the reforms now being promulgated in Prussia must give the German people more say in their own governance, and thus the necessary preliminaries to peace conversations are being made. If the Pope's Note discloses a willingness on the part of Germany to settle the Alsace question on reasonable lines, to evacuate the territories conquered in the West, and the liberalisation of the German method of Government is apparent, President Wilson may no longer refuse to open negotiations. Doubt is expressed in some of the saner American papers as to whether the President has the power to induce the Allies to treat with Germany supposing they don't want to. His position is sufficiently obvious, has been made plainer by the recent declarations of Lord Rhondda. Ever since he joined them, the strong position the President occupied in Allied councils has been perfectly clear. If, then, Germany desires peace enough to come into line with the President's declared desires the end of the war is near. On the other hand, if her loud-voiced jingoes insist on fighting until victory is won, then peace is far distant.

Pro-Allies and Pro-Germans.

It is interesting to read, in neutral papers, of the surprise expressed when those who urge the "no annexations, no indemnities" policy on the Allies are dubbed pro-Germans. In Germany, say the neutral writers,

those who advocate this formula are regarded as pro-Allies. We look upon Germany as a country whose defeat is certain; in fact, to judge from the reports and comments appearing in our press to-day, one would assume the enemy already smashed, but we have to remember that the Germans are apparently deluded enough to believe that they cannot be crushed, even imagine that they have thus far had the best of the fight! This conviction of theirs may militate against an early peace. However, we can only await the Pontiff's next communication with impatient hope.

The Reason for the Riga Gulf Fight.

It is doubtful how far we should trust reports by neutrals concerning food riots, dissatisfaction, rows in the Reichstag, and Socialists' declarations in Germany; but there need be no hesitation in believing the main facts which have been published concerning the mutiny in the navy. If any confirmation were needed it is to be found in the enemy attack on the islands which shut off the Riga Gulf from that of Finland. The Germans have thus far refrained from any sustained offensive against Russia, not, I am afraid, as some of our experts would have us believe, because they are too weak in soldiers and guns to carry one out successfully, but because political, not military policy now dictates action, or rather inaction, on the Russian front. Obviously the attitude of the Germans is to allow the conflicting elements in Russia to do their work for them. They are endeavouring to avoid doing anything which might possibly unite these forces in common action against the Teutonic armies. Leave the Russians alone to further impair the power of Russia is clearly the policy which has been recently pursued by the enemy. The taking of Riga was the answer to the activity which Korniloff and Kerensky had managed to instil into the Russian troops, but directly the two leaders fell out and the Russian effort collapsed, the Germans in turn abandoned their offensive. If the enemy contemplate the setting up as a separate State of the old Baltic Provinces, at one time ruled over by the Teutonic knights, the possession of Riga is necessary. To have Riga without having its gulf would, of course, gravely weaken the position of any such new State, and dominance in the gulf can only be maintained if the islands which guard the entrance thereto are in the hands of those who possess Riga. All the same, I consider that the enemy would not, at this

juncture, have attacked the Russian garrisons on these islands had it not been deemed necessary to give the fleet immediate employment.

The Mutiny in the German Fleet.

The mutiny broke out on four of the Germans' latest battleships, and so seriously did the authorities regard the occurrence that it was deemed necessary to find a scapegoat. Admiral Capelle, who succeeded Admiral von Tirpitz at the Navy Office, was selected, and his resignation followed. Apparently he is not held responsible for the mutiny, but it made so profound an impression throughout Germany that the people had to be quieted in some way. We can better understand the feelings of the Germans if we imagined our thoughts supposing the crews of half-a-dozen of our super-dreadnoughts had thrown their officers overboard and hoisted the red flag! Our position would, of course, be worse than that of the Germans, for the destruction of the whole German Fleet would not, after all, materially affect the situation of the Central Powers, whereas the crippling of our fleet would mean invasion of England, and the cutting off of her food supply. We have to go back to the famous mutiny at the Nore to find a case in British history in which the men of the fleet rebelled against their officers and refused to go to sea to fight the foe.

The British and the German Sailor-man.

It is suggested that the Socialist activity in the Russian Navy has spread to the German, and that the mutiny was directly due to this. Certainly Socialistic propaganda is more likely to bear fruit in a fleet than in an army. The men are more or less isolated, they have time on their hands and have plenty of opportunity to nurse their grievances. In the German Fleet, at any rate, the men have been chafing in inactivity for the last three years, and that breeds discontent. The soldiers on the other hand have been constantly at work, constantly moving about, never very long in the same place. The British Fleet has always been manned by volunteers who remain for a long period on shipboard. Their fathers before them have probably been seamen, and the spirit of tradition is strong amongst them. Each British sailor is indeed a handy man whose training is intended to fit him for almost any position on shipboard. He becomes part, in fact, of the warship which

houses him. The German Fleet, on the other hand, is manned by short-service conscripts, who never become handy men, but are perfect in one or two things only. They do not become part and parcel of the navy, are merely visitors there. They cannot, therefore, have that feeling of universal comradeship founded on age-long tradition which animates the British Fleet.

The Red Flag on German Battleships.

There are those, by the way, who contend that, in these days of specialisation, it is waste of time and foolish to attempt to create of the sailor an all-round man. The German method is better suited, they say, to modern conditions than is the British. That is as it may be. Certainly those who prophesied that the German conscript sailor would not stand the strain of naval fighting have proved false prophets; but, well as the Germans have done when odds were more or less equal, they cannot be said to have done as well as the British seadogs. The crews of four of the enemy warships appear to have revolted, to have pitched overboard some of their officers, and to have imprisoned others. They then raised the red flag and proceeded to throw over guns and ammunition, a most extraordinary action in view of the fact that, when the inevitable fight came which they must have anticipated, they would be weaponless. It can only be explained on the assumption that these crews were convinced that the revolutionary doctrine had so permeated the entire fleet that they only had to make a start for all the other seamen to follow. The rising was suppressed with a strong hand. Many men were shot, and the Secretary of the Navy in the Reichstag accused Socialist members for being responsible for the occurrence. He had to resign, and evidently it was deemed necessary to give the navy something to do at once. Hence the present action in the Gulf of Riga. This mutiny occurred eight weeks ago, and, in view of the use to which the fleet is now being put, there seems little chance of further occurrences of the kind.

German Diplomats.

There appears to be a growing demand for the retirement of Dr. Michaelis. He is proving himself merely a gramophone who lacks any initiative or ideas of his own. Von Bethmann-Hollweg was at any rate a statesman, but his successor seems to be nothing but a typical Bureaucrat. His fall is likely to be reported any day, and when

it does come may be regarded as a victory for those who have constantly worked for a more democratic form of government in Germany. Baron von Kuehlmann, who is said to be a diplomatist of considerable ability, is spoken of as a likely successor. Public men in enemy countries seem to be very disgruntled with their political leaders, "a plague on all our statesmen" they do not hesitate to say. An ingenious explanation of the diplomatic failures of German Ambassadors and statesmen is put forward. Diplomacy is admittedly a crooked game, and the best diplomatist is he who can bluff most successfully, can tell a lie with the most positive appearance of truth. We Germans, so say some of them, are children in this sort of game, do not yet know how to play it properly! It is pretty evident that the Social Democrats are becoming restive, and the attempt to shoulder the responsibility of the mutiny in the fleet on them is not likely to smooth the troubled waters. Supposing they managed to turn out Dr. Michaelis and compel the new Chancellor to select his colleagues on a more democratic basis, this, combined with the reforms in Prussia, will bring about the state of affairs desired by President Wilson, make it exceedingly difficult for him to refuse to discuss peace terms.

Petrograd Not the Immediate Object.

The last naval engagement in the Gulf of Riga took place in August, 1915, and the Russians claimed a notable victory. I pointed out at the time that the object of the enemy in entering the gulf was probably to block the narrow five-mile-wide channel which gave the Russians access to that sheet of water from the north, and indicated that before the Germans could hope to seriously menace Petrograd, they would have to possess themselves of the islands which lie immediately south of the entrance of the Finnish Gulf, though at the time it seemed unlikely that any attempt would be made to capture these guardians of the highway to the Russian capital. I do not think that the present operations are dictated by any desire to assail Petrograd; mainly are they caused by the need to keep the fleet busy. Their possession makes absolute the German control of Gulf of Riga, but their loss is not likely to alarm and consolidate the Russians to anything like the extent that a formidable advance towards Petrograd or Odessa by land would do. If the enemy rest satisfied with ejecting our

Allies from the islands, and do nothing more, the political situation will be little changed. It is already too late in the year to organise a naval expedition against Petrograd. The Gulf of Finland freezes up from November to April, though in times of peace the channel is kept open by ice-breakers. But such methods are only effective when these craft can operate continuously; if the ice once gets too thick they cannot smash their way through.

The Esthonian Island.

Oesel Island, the largest and most southern of the group which lie off the mouth of the Gulf of Riga, is some 1000 square miles in extent, and carries a population of 65,000. The Russian batteries on the Janimo peninsula dominate the southern entrance to the gulf, and those on the immediately adjacent island of Mohn prevent passage through the narrow northern entrance. If the Germans desire to use this channel they will, without doubt, make a landing on the Esthonian mainland, but there would seem to be little need for them to utilise the northern entrance at all, all that is required is to stop the Russians passing through it and making trouble for the enemy in the Gulf of Riga. The people of the islands are Esthonians, closely related to the Finns, but the clergy and nobility are German for the most part. Oesel and Mohn are connected by a causeway over which a railway runs. The rapid conquest of these two islands discloses exceptional organisation by the enemy, and the capture of the islands of Dago and Worms is likely to follow speedily. The formidable Russian fortress of Reval is but 60 miles from Hapsäl, the mainland port opposite the island of Worms. If one of the objects of the Germans was to induce the Russian Fleet to come out and fight, it has evidently not been attained, for only small battleships are reported to have been in action. The *Slava*, which was sunk, being but 12,000 tons. Two large pre-dreadnoughts and four dreadnoughts form part of the Baltic Fleet, but no mention at all is made of them. Last winter it is said that they remained frozen up for many months at Helsingfors. Possibly within the next few days they may emerge and do battle, although for them to do so would be as reckless as for the German warships to sally forth and engage the whole strength of the British Fleet.

Another "Scrap of Paper."

The next move of the enemy will be awaited with interest. Will they effect a landing and march on Reval? will they take the Åland Islands? will they land in Finland? or will they rest satisfied with the group of islands they are now engaged in capturing? The Åland Islands, contrary to definite undertakings by the Russians, were fortified some time ago. The placing of formidable guns there was strongly resented by the Swedish Government, which regarded the action as a hostile one, so close are the islands to their capital, and so do they dominate the routes along which passes most of Sweden's trade. If, when peace is finally made, the expressed desire of the Allies that peoples shall themselves decide what Government they shall be under, these islands would assuredly be granted to Sweden, for the dwellers thereon are almost all of Swedish descent. It is interesting to note that it was Britain and France who compelled the Russians to undertake never to fortify them. This stipulation forms part of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Crimean War, and has proved a scrap of paper more often torn up than any other, with the possible exception of that of Berlin, which revised the agreement by which the Russo-Turkish war was concluded. If the Germans were to take them it would create a difficult situation with the Swedes, unless our enemy had their restoration to Sweden in view. The present naval action in the Baltic is not likely to have any immediate result in Russia itself, but it may accelerate the final separation of Finland, and the establishment there of a separate republican State. If, however, the enemy do land in force at Pernau and Hapsal, it would be an easy business for them to compel the retirement of the Russian armies in Livonia and the evacuation of Reval.

The New Russian Parliament.

Although the Russian Government has declared that Party differences are to be sunk, and every energy is to be devoted to meeting the new German menace, a declaration alone can unfortunately not put an end to Party strife. Although, as usual, cables make the best of the Russian situation, they cannot hide the fact that things are no better there, or suppress entirely information about the rioting and pogromes, which are apparently universal throughout the whole country. The date of the elections for the first Russian Parliament is

shortly to be fixed. The Assembly is to consist of 730 members, and they are to be elected by universal suffrage. If indeed it is possible to educate the masses to exercise the vote the moderates may possibly carry the day. If, however, the country people refrain from going to the polling booths the result will be a foregone conclusion, and the extremists will emerge victorious. When the first Duma was elected, on a liberal franchise, it was so radical that it had to be immediately dissolved, and another elected on a very restricted franchise. If the advanced Socialists obtain a majority they will probably try to end the war so far as Russia is concerned. If they do the position will be cruelly ironical. The Allies are announcedly fighting for the right of all peoples to govern themselves, and to dictate the policy of their countries. Russia, an autocracy, helps to plunge the world into war; a democratised Russia may refuse to continue fighting! In the former case the people had no voice in the decision taken, in the latter it is they who will make it. We could not therefore logically grumble at whatever action they choose to take. Kerensky is still Prime Minister, and has contrived to form a Government of all parties. But such a Petrograd-made Government is hardly likely to be able to dominate the Ukraine or control the whole of Russia; can scarcely be regarded as much stronger than its predecessors. The Russian commander-in-chief has refused to go to the Paris military conference on the ground that it would but disclose the utter feebleness of Russia, and induce Japan to enter on the stage of the European war. "She then," he says, "would require compensation, and Russia, being weak, would naturally have to pay." That there is as yet no separate peace is the best feature of the Russian situation.

Great British Offensive in Flanders.

The British offensive in Flanders has been pushed continuously. This constant activity is the principal difference between the present drive and all others which have preceded it. Hitherto there has always been a pause after every effort, whilst positions won were being consolidated, and the heavy guns were being brought forward in order to batter down a further section of the enemy front. Now it would seem that our artillery has so long a range, that we are so splendidly supplied with guns, that an initial success can be immediately followed up by a further at-

tack, and another advance. Evidently whilst one set of far-distant guns is hammering the enemy trenches and pill boxes another set is being brought forward to continue the work when the range is further. This new method is largely responsible for our recent continuous successes. That the fighting has been very severe indeed, and that the losses must have been exceedingly heavy, is now disclosed in the cables, which at first always spoke of the extraordinary light casualties. How far the present advance will be instrumental in forcing the enemy to abandon the Belgian coast depends almost entirely upon the topography of the country, and of that we have but imperfect knowledge. We are at present battling for the ridge which runs almost north and south midway between Ypres and Roulers. Once we have that we dominate the enemy positions. That does not mean, though, that we could continue to dominate them, when we ourselves, in following their retreating forces, were obliged to descend to the plain where we would have to meet them on even terms once the fighting got beyond the range of our guns on the ridge.

To Force Evacuation, or Merely Secure Position.

As far as I can ascertain, though, this ridge runs north-east towards the coast, and, if it does do so, it should be possible for our armies to creep along it, and, in time, cut the enemy communications between Ghent and the coastal towns of Ostend and Zeebrugge. If, though, that ridge is not there to help us there is now little possibility of our shifting the enemy till next spring. Former attempts have demonstrated the immense difficulty of carrying out military operations in Flanders during the autumn and winter. It is well known that the thick stratum of clay which runs through that country prevents the percolation of the water, which consequently stands on the surface, and produces those horrible seas of mud our soldiers are already fighting in. Notable as has been our success during the last few weeks, unless it is possible to force our way, wedgelike, into the enemy territory along the high ground, there seems small chance of doing much more in face of German concentration, plus mud, this year. It is already late. Autumnal rains are falling, and soon winter weather will set in. So terrific, though, are the efforts being put forth by the British army that one is encouraged to

believe that there is good hope of winning success, and of driving back the foe from the sea coast. If this cannot be done, then we are obliged to regard the present offensive as mainly an attempt to eject the enemy out of positions from which they could harass us all through the winter.

Food Supplies and Submarines.

Lloyd George has been emphasising the seriousness of the food position, and has urged British farmers to largely increase the acreage they are cultivating. This not because of the submarine menace, which he assured them was passed, but because of the notable shortage in the world's crops. France and Italy, he pointed out, have had the worst crops for many years, and are obliged to go overseas to make good deficiencies. "We do not want to go," he said, "to the American market to snatch food from the mouths of our Allies." Lord Rhondda has issued an appeal to the people of England to be still more economical of food. There has not been enough produced in the world, he says, to feed the Allies for the next 12 months at the present rate of consumption. Food rationing would seem to be inevitable. Meanwhile food riots are reported from Italy, and the position of the poor neutrals is becoming critical. In order to allow for the increased wages paid to coal miners the price of coal, already terrific, has been increased a further 2s. 6d. per ton. This means that Italy and France will find it more difficult than ever to obtain supplies, and their people must feel the increasing cold which heralds the winter, with most tragic concern. In Russia, apparently, many thousands will die this winter through lack of coal and wood, and suffering in all the neutral countries, as well as in France, is likely to be appalling. All our leaders have, for the last few months, spoken so confidently concerning the defeat of the submarines that it is distinctly depressing to note that the weekly sinkings continue about the same. Evidently the optimism of our statesmen is based rather upon the increased output of our shipbuilding yards than upon any diminution of the number of ships which are being sunk. That being so, the danger always remains that more efficient German craft may once more bring the under-water menace near. The enemy has managed to sink a British auxiliary cruiser during the week, an American transport returning empty under escort—neither of which, of course, appear in the list of mercantile

losses—and also sank a large passenger boat in the Mediterranean, though this too was escorted. This ship carried 300 passengers, and a large supply of ammunition, which, exploding, caused the death of 250 of the crew and passengers, the third largest fatality list on a single boat since the war began, warships excepted.

Imperial Politics.

After many failures Sir Robert Borden has managed to form a coalition Government, which, however, does not include the veteran Liberal leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has declared his intention of fighting the coming election on the conscription question, which looks like splitting Canada asunder, and re-opening the breach between English and French, which time had healed. If the fight becomes a racial one, conscription will easily win, but obviously troublous times are ahead for our sister Dominion. The Irish Convention has not yet evolved any solution for the Irish question, but on the other hand it has not yet dissolved in dissension. That at any rate is something to the good. Mr. Redmond and his followers in the House of Commons are showing signs of impatience, and the Sinn Feiners are openly sceptical about the possibility of reaching a satisfactory settlement. Mr. Bonar Law has announced that the Government intends to introduce a Bill further prolonging the life of Parliament, an action which the home papers show will be rather strongly resented. The broadening of the franchise at home is expected to greatly increase the number of Labour members returned to the House—that is probably one reason why Mr. Lloyd George desires the postponement of the election. In order to be ready for their coming increased share in the control of the government of the Empire, the Labour Party has drawn up a new programme, and adopted a new constitution. This follows that of the Australian Labour Party in the main, but the men at home have very wisely not restricted themselves to run only workmen as candidates. The scope of the Party is to be widened so as to include the political interests of all producers by hand or brain, without distinction of class or occupation. If that policy is adhered to the Labour Party will quickly have a majority in the House of Commons, and the democratising of the other half of the British Parliament would quickly follow. The recent elections in Sweden resulted in the defeat of the Gov-

ernment and the return of a majority of Socialists and Liberals. Difficulty was experienced in forming a Ministry, but finally a Liberal-Socialist combination was arranged, with M. Eden, a Liberal, as Prime Minister, and M. Branting, the famous Socialist, as his chief colleague.

The Silent Service.

In these days of publicity, when the achievements of individuals and sections of the community are shouted from the housetops, we have come to regard volubility too much as the indication of efficiency. Consequently when work is done about which the newspapers have nothing whatever to say, silent victories are won, or men do deeds the housetop shouter never acclaims, we fail almost entirely to recognise this work, learn of these victories or honour these deeds. Only now and again something occurs which should make us realise that unheralded and unsung sterling things are being done by folk concerning whom the public at large knows nothing whatever. A striking instance of this was given when, the other day, a bald and meagre statement was made to the effect that a mine sweeper had destroyed an anchored mine off Gabo Island, midway between Sydney and Melbourne. Where did the mine come from? How was it located? Since when were mine-sweeping craft and competent crews available in these waters? How, if a mine field existed, had Inter-State vessels not been lost on the trip between the capitals of Victoria and New South Wales? The answers to these questions, which most people must have at once asked themselves, show that someone, somewhere, must be thinking ahead and be taking, in time, the proper measures to meet possible dangers to Australia. Inevitably one is led to the Navy Office, and knowing the tradition of the British Navy, ever the "silent service," is not surprised that it is there the unknown workers are to be found who have, in advance, equipped the Australian Navy with mine-sweepers, have carried out the necessary training of the crews which manned them, have found out where the mine field was located, have warned shipping, so that this danger was easily avoided, and only when the peril is removed have reluctantly said anything at all about it. When the true account of the part Australia has played in the war comes to be written people will be amazed to learn how ceaselessly, night and day, the Commonwealth Navy Department has

guarded the country. What precautions have been taken in the early days to keep German raiders from our shores. What feats of organisation performed to supply our ships with coal and necessary equipment. What care exercised in connection with the hundreds of transports which have so successfully conveyed our forces oversea. How completely the wireless service has been controlled and improved. What precautions have been taken so that when finally mines are laid they must be strewn in an out-of-the-way spot instead of in the near vicinity of our seaport towns. How careful the measures which have protected our merchantmen from the danger of internal explosion and the like. Unfortunately, the "silent service" will certainly maintain its motto, and, even when the war is all over, we are not likely to learn the full story of what has been so unobtrusively done, or properly realise the debt we owe to these naval men who have so steadfastly stuck to their tasks during all the wearing months since August, 1914. To know that they are there, though, cannot but give us a feeling of confidence and security generally.

Mines and Mines.

The destruction of a submarine mine near Gabo Island suggests that the *Cumberland* probably ran on one and was thus destroyed rather than by an internal explosion. The laying of a mine, by the way, is nothing like so difficult a matter as some people imagine. Although these instruments of destruction remain anchored, a definite number of feet below the surface, they automatically anchor themselves, first going almost to the bottom, dropping their anchor and then rising to within twenty feet of the surface or whatever distance they have been set to remain. All the mine-layer has to do is to tip the mine overboard, having come to the desired spot when the tide is as desired. It is the anchored mine that is dangerous to ships. The floating mine is far less formidable. To explode it the mine must be struck sufficiently hard to drive in or knock off its projecting knobs or horns. In some of the latest kind these are of glass, and the slightest blow therefore explodes the mine. When a mine is floating free, unless the vessel strikes it fairly with its stem, the wash made, as the engines drive it through the water, sweeps the mine aside and it never comes in contact with the hull of the ship at all. It was an ironical circumstance that the British Naval representative at the last Hague

Conference, which largely concerned itself with the rules of naval warfare, and the limitation of the use of such things as mines, should have been Captain Charles—now Admiral Sir Charles—Ottley, whose fertile genius was largely responsible for the development of the mine into the formidable weapon it undoubtedly is to-day.

Raiders in Pacific.

The presence of German raiders in the Pacific must have been known for some time, for ships do not go a-missing without cause, and the disappearance of several sailers, and notably of the steamer *Wairuna* (4600 tons) which left Auckland on May 30th, undoubtedly caused the authorities to assume that one or more of the enemy raiders which had been operating in the Southern Atlantic, had got to work in the Pacific. The *Seeadler*, which it was known had not been captured, and which had sunk many ships off the west coast of South America, was obviously the most likely enemy visitor. Events proved that she was responsible for the losses in the Pacific, thirteen vessels, it is said, having been sunk by her. This enemy raider was lost during the operation of cleaning her hull, when, lying in a bay in one of the Society Islands, a strong breeze drove her on to a reef, where she broke in two. The crew appear to have taken to two motor launches, one of which captured a French auxiliary schooner, which it would seem they armed, and in which they are still at large. The other motor-boat was "arrested" at Fiji. It was manned by the captain of the *Seeadler*, Graf von Aknor, and several of his officers. The Pacific is large, but already the area of the depredations of the raiders must be greatly circumscribed. The daring of the enemy crew was demonstrated in the manner in which the *Seeadler* evaded the British blockade, and carried out her raid. Although the methods of von Aknor have been described as "piratical," all the evidence yet to hand indicates that he scrupulously conformed to the rules of war. The same compliance therewith was shown by the *Emden*, the *Königsberg*, and the *Moewe*; it is only in under-water warfare, concerning which no special rules have even been drawn up, that the enemy transgress international regulations relating to the conduct of naval fighting. When they are on the surface, in ordinary raiders, they appear to play the horrible game in accordance with the rules. Before long we may expect to learn of the running down of the rest of

the *Seeadler's* crew, and the ships they have manned.

Federal Affairs.

The most notable Federal event is the completion of the East-West railway. No one expects it to pay for itself—it has already cost £7,000,000 instead of the original £4,000,000 estimated—but it was a necessary link with the West, and must not be regarded as a money-making proposition, but as an Empire-building one. Considerable interest will attach to the by-election in the Grampians, where Mr. Jowett and Mr. Russell are fighting for the seat made vacant by the death of Dr. Carty Salmon. Apart altogether from their politics there can be no doubt that Mr. Jowett would be a greater force in Parliament than would his present opponent. One of the principal things with which he is concerning himself is that British soldiers who come out to Australia should be granted the same facilities for taking up land as those Australians who, with them, have fought for the Empire. Because of his efforts to secure the adoption of this reasonable policy, which is in grave danger of being altogether overlooked, Mr. Jowett is rendering yeoman service to Australia, for what the Commonwealth wants is population, and it ought to welcome English, Scotch and Irish soldiers instead of making it difficult for them to settle here.

The Labour Party Manifesto.

The Victorian branch of the Australian Labour Party has issued an election manifesto, which has caused certain of our most vocal jingoes to foam at the mouth! From the extracts published, in anti-Labour papers, one would imagine that the manifesto urged that Australia should stop fighting at once, no matter what Great Britain did, and that peace should be made on the lines of the German proposals. That, of course, the Labour Party does not propose. It does declare itself in favour of the immediate ending of the war by negotiation, but that is a very different thing from advocating the withdrawal of Australia from the war immediately. Plenty of leading men in America and other Allied countries are already urging the conclusion of a negotiated peace. Examination discloses that the so-called approval of the German peace proposals is really an endorsement of the American war aims as set out by President Wilson:—The evacuation of invaded territory. The right of people of disputed ter-

ritory to settle their own future. The restoration of invaded territory at the expense of invaders. Self-government of all small nations. International control of uncivilised foreign possessions, in default of amicable agreement at peace conference. In addition it urges the extension of the principle of international arbitration, the abolition of the secrecy which surrounds the foreign policy of the nations, and which without the knowledge of the peoples may, at any moment, present them with a *fait accompli*, which makes war inevitable, the prohibition of the international trade in armaments and munitions of war, or their private manufacture, the simultaneous abolition of conscription in all countries, and the maintenance of the seas as a highway for the free use of all peoples. Every sane statesman is now advocating the extension of compulsory arbitration, the demand for frankness on the part of the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had become insistent before the war, the scandal of the armament ring, and the disclosures concerning the Putiloff arsenal before the war had caused people to urge the nationalisation of all armament works, and undoubtedly that will be one of the results of this struggle. Reduction of armaments is hoped for by all sane people, and such reduction, if properly carried out, would involve the abolition of conscription. The freedom of the seas is one of the main planks in the American war platform. The "no annexation" formula has been adopted by Russia and America, and Great Britain declared when she entered the war that she desired no territorial gain. "Restitution" has always been one of the British battle-cries. The right of the little peoples to decide their own future is one of the adopted Allied war aims. International control of uncivilised foreign possessions is being strongly advocated in America, where it is being increasingly held that though Germany's colonies should not be returned to her, neither should they be held as the spoils of war by those who have conquered them in a fight waged not for gain, but for the democratising of the world, and the establishment of permanent peace. On examination then it will be seen that the Labour manifesto is not the frantically disloyal thing some folk would have us believe.

The Victorian Elections and Roads.

The State Parliament has dissolved, and candidates are already in the field for the

election, which is to take place in the middle of November. The Government managed to weather all storms and survived all attacks. It accomplished surprisingly little in the way of useful legislation, but it has contrived to balance its accounts, and to keep things going. In time of war perhaps one should not expect anything else. The so-called Economy Party has arrived at a compromise with Sir Alec. Peacock's followers, and there is apparently to be no mutual opposition at the polls. This suggests that Sir Alec. will win the election. One thing the Government did which stands to its credit. It voted a sum of £500,000 to be spent, during the next five years, in developing the subsidiary roads of the country. That sum is, of course, far too small, but it is a beginning. We say we want people to go on the land. We are at present arranging for the repatriation of our soldiers, yet we fail to even understand the need of making the State habitable. It is ridiculous to expect people to go out and settle on the land when no effort is made to give them roads, decent roads, on which to convey their produce to the railway or the market. Victoria, it is quite safe to say, will never be settled until good roads, like a network, gridiron the land. Five hundred thousand pounds is a drop in the bucket; at least £4,000,000 would be needed. The Government evidently seri-

ously contemplates spending £2,000,000 on developing the brown coal industry, but can only squeeze out a paltry £100,000 a year for developing the roads which feed the main highways and the railways! That £2,000,000 spent sanely on road-building would come back tenfold before long in the increased prosperity of the country and the greater tax-paying power of the entire community. Every candidate for election ought to declare his policy in this matter, for it is infinitely more important for the State as a whole than anything else at present before the electors. It has a direct bearing on the repatriation schemes, and it is quite possible that, by developing its roads, the Government could save an immense amount of money by tapping land it can purchase cheaply for the purpose instead of buying expensive acres, expensive only because communication is easy and roads are good. Pity it is that this election is not taking place in the winter, for then the need for a bold policy concerning roads would be forcibly impressed on candidates as their motors jolted into mud-holes or stuck entirely in bogs—called roads by courtesy. The best argument of all, though, would be that presented to the defeated candidate, defeated because the appalling state of the roads had prevented his supporters from reaching the polling booth!

AFTER THE WAR—WHAT?

An increasing number of people are earnestly asking, "When will the war end?" but how many, one wonders, are seriously concerning themselves with what is likely to happen once the terrific conflict is terminated, or are preparing to meet the new problems, the more stringent conditions of life which will be left as Armageddon's aftermath? Few, I am afraid, trouble to imagine what the world will be like when nations cease from killing each other, and settle down to pay the bill and reorganise the earth. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" appears to be the motto which satisfies most of us. We do not look ahead very much. We say we are going to do a great deal, but do not particularise probably because we have very little real idea of the set of conditions we will have to meet during the months immediately following the signing of peace.

These conditions, of course, depend very largely upon the sort of peace that is made, and the nature of the peace terms depends upon the outcome of the struggle now raging. There are certain obvious enough things, though, which must occur, and for these we can prepare ourselves. At the same time there is ample scope for those who endeavour to pry into the future, and try to visualise for themselves the problems the nations will have to meet when the soldiers cease from fighting. I make no pretence to be able to see farther ahead than others, nor am I possessed of the expert knowledge which should enable many to foresee certain obvious things in this, that, or the other direction, but I have been amazed to find how little effort most people are making to try and understand the state of affairs likely to exist when the war is over. It has occurred to me, therefore, that my

readers might possibly be interested if I set down what I think is likely to happen even though they know that I am no more qualified to prophesy than they are themselves.

As future international conditions will be chiefly determined by the nature of the peace treaty it is necessary, first of all, to speculate as to what its terms are likely to be. The most determined "bitter ender" still cleaves to the notion of carrying on an economic war after the military struggle is over, and expects the Allies to boycott Germany for some years to come. He also looks on the German colonies as his property, and expects to hold everything we have possessed ourselves of in Turkey. But even the most optimistic can hardly hope for the crushing of Germany. How much say the enemy have at the conference table depends, of course, pretty considerably upon the situation in Russia, and the military position in France, Turkey and the Balkans. But even if the belligerents do not meet as equals, even if the Allies are able to enforce their will on the Central Powers, there is going to be no boycott established against Germany.

I showed in an article in these pages immediately after the deliberations of the Paris Conference had been concluded why, even if we won decisively, an anti-German boycott would not be carried out. We may, I think, take it for granted that the war will be ended by a negotiated peace, though, whether the peace plenipotentiaries meet as equals or not we cannot yet say.

But although we cannot know that for certain we may at any rate assume that when the fighting is done we will have to resume the commercial rivalry which existed before the war, and will not have any artificial aids in the shape of high discriminating tariffs to assist us in the struggle. I have little faith in a voluntary boycott, a self-denying ordinance, of the individual who will refuse to purchase enemy goods. It is a question of supply and demand, and the best or cheapest article wins out. For instance, if the housewife finds that an English enamel saucepan not only costs more than the German one but chips quickly she will, for the sake of economy and safety, procure the German pan even though she knows it has been made by a man who formed part of an army against which her own people had been fighting. Legislation on the Canadian lines to prevent dumping there will probably be but straight competition we will have to meet and only by the

superiority of our goods can we hope to come out victors. Since we have been at war there has been pretty general assertion that Great Britain was falling behind in the race for world trade not because her goods were inferior, or her methods behind the times, but because she had to meet unfair competition from Germany. Certainly prominent economists do not always support that view, but it has been widely preached during the last few years.

The peace treaty, I think, will prohibit the imposition of discriminating tariffs, but will permit anti-dumping legislation. Unfair competition will be made as difficult as possible, but ordinary competition there must certainly be. It will rest then with the individual manufacturers and shippers and producers whether we win, keep level with the Germans, or fall behind them, not with the Governments. It is admitted that in some of their methods the Germans were ahead of us. Even in our sacred domain of shipping they had stolen a march on us, by sheer efficiency. We have, however, had ample time to put our house in order, to ascertain why we had been outdistanced in certain things, and if later we employ the same methods of efficiency, use the same care, and take the same pains as our rivals, we should have nothing to fear from the enemy competition.

The question is, Will we have learned the lesson, have we even troubled to begin to learn it? We may be preparing for the inevitable trade contest, but for the most part we are "living low and saving nuff'n" so effectively that the impression is general that there will be little alteration in our methods in future. Assuming that we can hold our own within the Empire, are we likely to win in neutral fields where the very keenest sort of competition will be encountered. Why were the Germans beating us before in South America and elsewhere? How had they managed to secure such a hold on Russia, on Italy, on Sweden, and on Holland? We have been told scores and scores of times. Because their travellers spoke the language of the people to whom they wanted to sell goods, studied their requirements, and adapted their wares to the foreign market. In addition, they allowed very long credit, a fair enough thing to do, though it has been strongly denounced in England.

One wonders whether British travellers are learning Russian and Spanish, Swedish and Dutch? I have met a few out here

who have told me that they intended to go to Russia after the war, or to try out Argentine, but in no case were Russian grammars being studied or Spanish lessons being taken. Admittedly it is difficult in Australia to learn the efforts being put forth to equip the British traveller so that he can successfully met his German rival on neutral ground, but so far as I can ascertain there seems little intention on behalf of the banks at home to go into partnership with manufacturers after the German plan, and, unless some such arrangement be made, the manufacturer, save in rare cases, cannot hope to extend to the neutral buyer that long credit which is admittedly one of the chief reasons of German success.

That competition will be desperately keen everyone is agreed upon, therefore, obviously, given shipping facilities, prices must speedily go down in many cases below the pre-war level. The cheapening of production will everywhere be aimed at, and the tendency to reduce wages would be general. But providing prices of food and other necessities dropped, reduction of wages would not actually badly affect the worker as the money he earned would go so much further than at present. All the same, we must expect any drop in wages, even though synchronising with a fall in prices, to create considerable friction in industrial circles after the war.

Whilst in England there will undoubtedly be a strong demand to protect the farmer by clapping on a tariff against all foreign and colonial grown wheat, the imperative need of bringing down the cost of living would effectively prevent any such fostering of the British grain fields. Wheat I do not think, though, will immediately drop in price directly the war is over, for the difficulty of transporting it to market will remain for a year, probably for two after peace is made. Three years after the signing of the treaty, however, wheat will probably be down, and the home Government will have to find the money to pay the farmer the difference between the market price and the price it has guaranteed him for his grain.

Germany has been compelled to become self-supporting, and will continue to carry on increased cultivation within her own borders. Instead of drawing the wheat she requires from Russia as formerly, she will produce it herself, or in semi-dependent countries, and the Russian crops will have to find other markets. Inevitably whatever surplus the Russian peasants produce will find its way to London in time,

and, as the Russian wheat is cheap, and transport easy, its arrival in great quantities will permanently reduce the Mark Lane price per bushel. But not for a year or two after the declaration of peace is the London market likely to be flooded with Russian grain.

Germany, when she comes again into the market as a buyer, will probably find it impossible to secure Australian wool, and must, perforce, turn to other countries for what she needs. Inevitably, then, the immediate result must be the rapid development of the flocks of Argentine, Uruguay and Southern Brazil. Already Argentine is treading on our heels and Uruguayan merino matches ours, whilst the German farmers of Santa Catherine and Rio Grande do Sul have not been behind in adding to their flocks and herds. The certain stream of German orders will undoubtedly greatly stimulate South American effort, and in a few years the number of sheep roaming the well-watered plains of these Latin American States will approximate ours in number. But so great must be the demand for wool to make up the deficiencies of the last three years, that there is little prospect of the price falling until South American competition becomes serious, which cannot happen for many years. The fact that Germany will be buying their wool will, of course, induce the Argentines, and Uruguayans to favour German rather than British or American goods.

England, before the war, was largely dependent on German beet sugar, and during the last three years has found that her own colonies, helped by those of Holland and by the United States, do not produce enough sugar for her needs. Inevitably it would seem she must at once turn to Germany for supplies the moment peace is signed. It is certainly unlikely that to protect itself the home Government will artificially maintain the present prices until the supplies it has purchased in advance have been consumed. Rather will the public demand for cheap sugar compel the sale of the future crops purchased at a loss in competition with beet sugar.

The need for cotton will be great, and the competition for the exportable American crop will be keen. Germany, however, hopes in time to get most of the cotton she needs from Asia Minor, and proposes, too, to draw great supplies of copra from the same source. If she loses her colonies in a negotiated peace she will press for compensation elsewhere and although I do not think that peace will give Germany Tur-

key. I do think that Teutonic schemes of development will be allowed to fructify, and Mesopotamia, Syria and Anatolia, instead of being kept in the state they have been in since the Middle Ages, will ere long produce wheat and maize, cotton and wool, copper and iron enough to supply the needs of half Europe.

So far as shipping is concerned, there must be a shortage for years. Freight will be high, and for some time everything brought from overseas will be costly. But the standardisation of ships, the creation by the United States of a mercantile marine, and the arrival of Japan as a freight carrier will before long bring down the price per ton, which must be paid for transport. This, despite the huge amalgamations we see to-day, despite the creation of "rings," despite the inevitable increase in the price of coal and working costs. Immediately peace is made Germany will send out her fleets to bring her the supplies she needs, and for a time all her ships will be fully occupied in carrying her wares to overseas markets, and bringing back raw products to Hamburg and Bremen. But it is not at all improbable that British, French and American merchants may find it far cheaper to ship goods in German bottoms than in any others for many a long day.

If her hopes are realised, Germany will have at once available a quite large fleet, not only can she send to sea the ships which have lain in her ports since the outbreak of war, but she may have turned over to her all the vessels which were taken in belligerent and—at first—neutral harbours. For a year at least the best liners crossing the Atlantic will be German, for the British have been utilised for naval and military work, numbers have been sunk, and considerable delay must occur in reconverting those that remain for civilian use.

As far as Australia is concerned, plenty of ships are likely to come here immediately peace is made. Great Britain wants our wheat and our wool which she has paid for, and must, therefore, send ships to get it. We on the other hand are not in very desperate need of anything from the homeland, and were it not for the fact that shipping rings exist, freights from England to Australia ought to be low. This need of Great Britain for our products should result in the more speedy return of our troops than is generally believed possible. The usual assumption—by those who trouble to think—is that it will take at least two years before the last of our soldiers sets foot in

Australia once more. That allows for three boats a week, each carrying 1000 men. If, however, Great Britain, in her need, sent six boats a week, all our men would be back in twelve months.

The most important thing, though, after the war is over will be the arrangements made for meeting the war bill. The interest charges on the war loans in Great Britain will be at least £250,000,000 per annum—even if peace comes before the spring. In addition, there are pensions and other war charges. To meet these and to maintain her pre-war scale of expenditure she would have to raise at least £500,000,000 annually, as compared to the record £200,000,000 of the year 1913-14. It is perfectly clear that it will be a heavy strain for the British taxpayers to both pay the war loans' interest and continue to spend over £70,000,000 annually on army and navy. That some general scheme of disarmament will be agreed upon at the Peace Conference is pretty sure, and the immense burden of debt which will hang round the necks of all the nations engaged in the present struggle is a splendid guarantee that the agreement in this matter will be kept. It would seem inevitable that, as early as possible, the various Governments concerned must convert their war loans. The new issues will carry low interest, and will be subject to income tax.

My own impression is that money will be fairly plentiful after the war, and that the Governments will exercise for some time a very stringent scrutiny over the flotation of companies, thus compelling those who would otherwise invest in allegedly big-yielding propositions to put their money into more legitimate concerns which would tend to make money plentiful and cheap. Nothing like as much money will be spent as during the war, but any amount will be about. After the experience of the last three years, however, he would be a bold man who would venture to prophesy on matters financial. It is not likely that Australia will get back to a gold currency for many a long day, if ever. The issuing of notes is really borrowing money from the public without the public realising it, but when it comes to paying the money back to the unsuspecting public in order to redeem the notes, real cash is needed. But there is not the slightest reason why Australia and Great Britain should not follow the United States and use paper, with the State's credit behind it, in preference to gold, which is not

token money, but actually worth its purchasing value.

There are those who assert confidently that never again will they speak to a German, and who imagine that for many years the bitterest hatred will continue in the world. Because we are in it, we regard this war as the most frightful ever waged, and consider that the conduct of the enemy has no parallel in history. The same rancour, the same bitterness has been engendered in every war which has preceded this. It was Thackeray who, in his book, "The Four Georges," tells of how we regarded the French during the Napoleonic wars:—"We prided ourselves," he says, "on our prejudices; we blustered and bragged with absurd vainglory; we dealt to our enemy a monstrous injustice of contempt and scorn; we fought him with all weapons, mean as well as heroic. There is no lie we would not believe; no charge of crime which our furious prejudice would not credit." Yet it was not long after Waterloo that cordial relations were re-established between French and British.

More striking still, because within the ken of most of us was the reconciliation after the Boer war. Look back to the newspapers of sixteen and seventeen years ago, and you will find that written there which would make you deem an early coming together of the two races impossible. Look at the photograph of the statue raised at Bloemfontein to the memory of the thousands of women and children who died in the concentration camps, and you would imagine the Boers could never forget. Yet, to-day, a Boer is a member of the select and autocratic council of six, which directs the policy of the British Empire! Certain people will, of course, endeavour to continue the work of fanning dislike into flaming hatred but fuel will be lacking to keep the flame burning. Within a comparatively short time Europe will settle down to its old ways, minus, let us hope, its armaments.

The war has demonstrated to the people how dependent they are on each other, and on supplies brought over the oceans in ships. The tendency to make each country self-supplying will, undoubtedly, be everywhere shown. Germany, if she has the copper mines of the Balkans, the oil wells of Galicia and Roumania, and the cotton fields of Asia Minor, the granaries of Hungary, Roumania, Mesopotamia, and Lithuania to draw on, would be almost self-supporting, far more so than England could ever hope to

be. But if, indeed, peace brings a United States of Europe then an entirely different policy might be pursued. Instead of trying to make and produce everything needed within the borders of each separate State, each country might specialise in those goods which it can best supply. Before the war Germany was admittedly first in the making of dyes, England in the building of ships, Austria in the production of glass goods, and so on and so forth. If each went on making what it is best suited for, supplies everywhere would be cheaper, but it is highly unlikely that mutual trust will reach such a stage as to permit of so logical and sensible an allotment of the task of world production.

Before the war people were beginning to live too easily—they are doing it still in Australia—but the struggle has shaken them up, has knocked away many of the artificial walls between class and class, has thrown the classes and the masses closer together, has vindicated woman's claim to a greater share in the government of the State, and demonstrated her fitness to perform many of those tasks formerly regarded as in the exclusive domain of man. There will, in Europe at any rate, be a better understanding between man and man, a more conciliatory spirit between employers and workers. The nations have gone through the furnace of trial, and will come out purer and better for it. People will be less selfish, more inclined to share their gifts with the community, less intolerant of control, more for the State and less for the individual.

Ere long the flying machine will revolutionise travel, break down frontiers and make the world smaller. Mails and passengers should soon reach Australia from Europe in a week or ten days and such costly enterprises as the East-West railway, which can never pay, will no longer require to be built. For a long time to come New York will be the financial centre of the world, replacing London, and, if aeroplane development during the next half decade equals that during the last, the American capital will be brought so near to Europe that its financial supremacy may be permanently retained.

These few thoughts, which I have jotted down, are but the musings of an observer; they do not pretend to be of much value or in any way prophetic. They serve, though, to demonstrate how gigantic is the subject, how important it is for us to get busy if we would finish well in the race that is before us.

HISTORY IN CARICATURE.

Oh, wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us.—*Burns.*

Quite the best cartoon on the Allied blockade of Germany is that which appears in *Pêle Mêle*. The lion in the picture presumably represents, not John Bull, but Belgium, and the American eagle is not shown as being engaged in the business, but the idea and the execution are excellent.

The world's cartoonists naturally concern themselves a good deal with the peace proposals which have been made during the last few months. *La Victoire* shows the socialist holding up a notice marked Peace, and suggesting to the French soldiers to come out of their trench whilst the Ger-



Le Pêle Mêle.

THE BLOCKADE.

[Paris.]

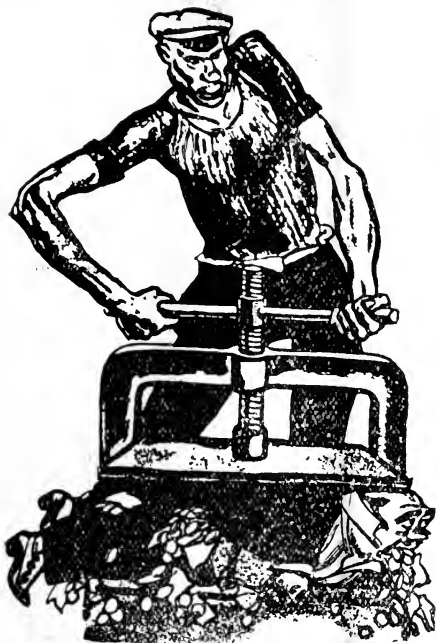
His eagle is dead—it will soon be his turn.



Nebelspalter. [Zurich.
THE RUSSIAN STEAMROLLER.
Will it ever work again?

lent, hits off the actual situation very well in his drawing of the bear that would not stand like a man.

The Russian papers are exceedingly frank and open in their criticism of the Government and of everything that occurs in Russia. The manner in which the people have been induced to subscribe to the recent loan evidently meets with the approval of the *Novy Satirikon*.



Novy Satirikon. [Petrograd.
LABOUR'S DAY.

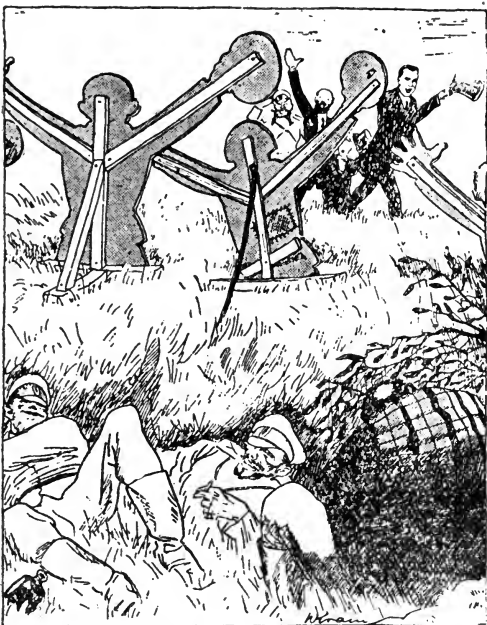
I used to dream of shedding blood of the bourgeois. I now delight in making him shed something else!



Nebelspalter. [Zurich.
POINTS MAN KERENSKY SWITCHES THE REVOLUTION INTO THE OFFENSIVE.



Sunday Evening Telegram. [London.
INTERNAL DISSENSION; OR, THE BEAR THAT
COULD NOT STAND LIKE A MAN.



Kladderadatsch. Berlin.
WAR ENTHUSIASM ACCORDING TO POTEMKIN.
REUTER TELEGRAM FROM PETROGRAD: "Kerensky
convinces himself by his visit to the front that
the war enthusiasm has not fallen off in the
slightest."



Kladderadatsch.

[Berlin.]

THE GENIE OF THE WORLD-PUMP.

"Can we pump a little more into this slack fellow?"

The German *Kladderadatsch* ridicules the suggestion that the war enthusiasm of Russia still continues. Mac, in the *Cape Times*, shows Austria rent, as usual, in twain, one eagle urgently desiring peace, the other demanding war. *Kladderadatsch*



Cape Times.

AUSTRIA'S TWO HEADS.

THE DEJECTED HEAD: "I've always been told that two heads are better than one, but I wish I could lose this other one."



Le Fêle Mêle.

"If by accident you kill the Russian bear, how will you divide it with Charles of Austria?"

"That is quite simple, I will take the bear, and he can have the skin."



The News of the World.

[London.]

THE DECISIVE MOMENT.



Esquella.

[Barcelona.]

MEANING ALPHONSO!

EX-TSAR: "Why do you want to interview me for Spanish readers?"

REPORTER: "Oh, there is a gentleman there who is much interested in your experience."



Reynolds's Newspaper. [London.
WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO FALL?

shows the Allies as a fearsome figure endeavouring to inflate a Russian soldier into semblance of a man. *Le Pêlé Mêle* endeavours to indicate that Germany will always be glad to take advantage of Austria. The *News of the World* shows Russia on the edge of a precipice, being urged over it by the spirit of anarchy, whilst patriotism and liberty vainly endeavour to hold it back.



Iberia.] [Barcelona.
THE IDEA.

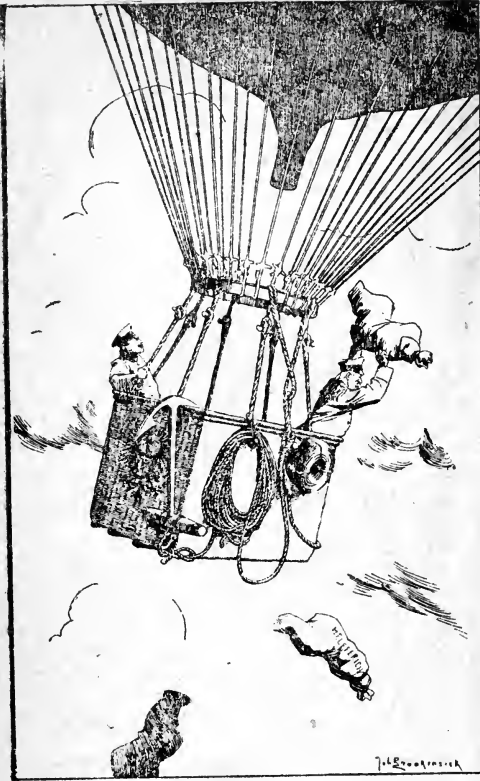
WILHELM: "Don't worry! You shall have Albania, Serbia and the Champagne. What more do you want?"
CONSTANTINE: "A sandwich."
WILHELM: "That is sheer gluttony."



Wahre Jacob.] [Stuttgart.
THE AMERICAN CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.
"Well, I presume both of you wish to raise mortgages on your kingdoms? How much shall it be?"
"The more the better, noble Jonathan; we have lost all our European credit."
(The words in the picture mean: "The Assistance Bureau for Impoverished Ententers, U.S.A.")



Numero.] [Turin.
KAISER: "Good-bye, Hollweg! I too may soon follow you."



De Amsterdammer. [Amsterdam.
THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN GERMANY.
HOLLWEG: "Who is to go next, Sire?"

The *Passing Show* has had many good cartoons. That reproduced on this page is by no means the worst.

Numero is the first paper which has reached Australia to deal with the great



Passing Show. [London.
STILL THE SAME OLD ASS!



Jugend. [Munich.
JOHN BULL: "Be comforted! Those who are befriended by me will have a better time in the world to come."
SMALL STATES: "It is to be hoped you have not taken that also on a 99 years' lease."



Il 420. [Florence.
WILHELM: "Good Heavens! He weighs more than I thought!"



Simplicissimus. [Munich.
THE ENTENTE-CEMETERY.



Numero.]

THE SHADOW OF HAIG.

[Turin.

WILHELM: "I am sure by the look of that menacing cloud that there is going to be a frightful tempest."

British offensive in Flanders, and it shows the Kaiser in great tribulation concerning it.

Kladderadatsch does not apparently take the view that the Italians have been everywhere victorious on the Isonzo.

The German papers all suggest that America is in this war in order to make



Kladderadatsch.

[Berlin.

THE ITALIAN DEPUTATION TO WILSON.

THE DUKE OF UNDINE: "You, Mr. President, took into the fight the shining light of morality! You will ensure the victory of right and freedom!"

MORGAN (whispers quickly to Wilson): "We could not possibly undertake it under 5 per cent.

money, and the American papers never fail to show that all German attempts to bring about internal troubles in the various *Entente* countries, fail lamentably. They also, one and all, show the Kaiser terrified by the great success of the Liberty Loan.



Kladderadatsch.

ADDIO!

[Berlin.

On the Isonzo front, one hears of feats of flying.



Sentinel.

[Milwaukee.

NOTHING SEEMS TO GROW!



Jugend.]

THE TIRED REAPER.

[Munich.]

DEATH: "I can reap no more!"

WILSON: "You must! I pay for overtime!"



State Journal.

[Columbus, Ohio.]

THIS IS HOW THE WAR IS GOING TO BE WON.

One of the best American cartoons is that which depicts the collapse in the high price of potatoes, which was brought about by the refusal of householders to consume that tuber when they consider the price too high, and by their successful attempts to cultivate it themselves.



News.]

[Dayton, Ohio.]

THE DROP IN POTATO PRICES.

"We did it with our little hoes!"



Passing Show.]

[London.]

THE HUNGER STRIKERS.

THE GAOLER: "If you do not eat it quickly, you will be forcibly fed."

BRITAIN TAKES THE LEAD IN FRANCE.

BY FRANK H. SIMONDS.*

On August 1, one month later than their attack at the Somme last year, the British began a wide offensive operation. This year, at last, they were aided by French forces operating on one flank, this time the northern flank. The blow was at once identified in all Allied and German newspapers as the great western operation of 1917.

The ground selected for the attack is familiar to the readers of battle news during the past three years. On a front from the Lys to the Yser, over ground that had been fought for in October and November, 1914, in April and May, 1915 (that is, in the great battles of First and Second Ypres), the British advanced. Their attack was heralded by the greatest artillery bombardment in human history. In London itself the grumble of the guns was plainly audible and not only was the bombardment the heaviest on record but it was also the longest sustained.

As the British and French lines stood, when the operation began, the French occupied the lines to which their own troops, colonials, had been driven after the "poison gas" attack of 1915; that is, they stood behind the Yser Canal, from the region where the inundation of 1914 still endured down to the famous Poelkapelle road, notorious in the official reports of two and three years ago.

From this point the British line extended in a shallow circle two miles or more north and east of Ypres round to the Messines or "White Sheet" Ridge, retaken in the offensive of some weeks ago. The immediate objectives of the British were the Pilkem Ridge and the crossings of Steenback Stream, with the villages of Langemarck and St. Julien, lost when the French had collapsed under the gas attack in 1915. The French objectives were also the lost ground on their front, Steenstrat and Het Sas across the canal and the triangle of land between the Canal and the St. Jansbeck River, together with the bridgehead, where the Yser Canal joins this stream at Drei Grachten.

Westward, the objectives of the British centre were the works and villages on the high ground of the Grafenstafel Ridge between Langemarck and the Menin Road,

the northern end of the battlefield of the first great Battle of Ypres, which defeated the German effort to reach Calais. On the right, between the Menin Road and the Lys the objectives were the remaining vantage points, including the village of Hollenbeke, lost in 1914 and not recovered in the earlier attack upon the Messines Ridge this year.

Behind these immediate objectives lay the remoter goals sought when Sir John French had come north in 1914—the Menin road to the crossing of the Lys at this town, Roulers, with its railroad and roads, the point vital to the easy communication between the two adjoining German sectors. At Menin the British would threaten the German hold upon Lille, at Roulers the French would menace the whole German position in the region between the Lys and the sea.

Finally, an advance between the Lys and the sea, comparable with that achieved during and after the battle of the Somme last year and last spring, would carry with it the German evacuation of the Belgian sea-coast, the destruction of the submarine base at Zeebrugge, and the protection of Britain against air raids such as had grown frequent in recent months. Here, in a word, were the immediate and remoter possibilities of the new operation.

Yet, beyond these were other considerations, the necessity to relieve pressure upon the collapsing Russians by preventing the detachment of German reserves to the east to gather the profits of Russian weakness and the equal necessity to keep a never-ending pressure upon the Germans and to seek by wasting their rapidly diminishing reserves to prepare the way for a successful attack in 1918, when America should arrive, and it would be possible to undertake a general offensive such as had been planned for the present year and postponed by the Russian collapse.

Beside this last purpose all else was minor. The capture of ground was relatively immaterial; even the advance to the coast was less important, however useful. The chief objective of the British, aided gallantly but only in a relatively minor measure by their French Allies, was the destruction of German man-power by the same sort of pounding that had made the

*Written on July 20th.

Somme so terrible, a pounding bound to be less expensive for the British than the Germans because of the superiority of the British both in guns and in munitions.

And it was a significant turn of affairs that after three years the Germans should be compelled to face on the same ground what the British had suffered at the First Battle of Ypres, where they were out-gunned and outnumbered.

It is perhaps an appropriate time to call attention to the fact that at the present time the main work is being done by the British. In the Marne operation and in all the first campaign of the war the British share was small, useful as it was, and magnificent as was the British stand at Ypres. A year later the new British army just coming on was still incapable of a mighty effort and the French, first in the offensive in Champagne and then in the desperate defensive at Verdun, were compelled to carry on, only in part aided by the British.

At the Somme the proportions began to change, and even at the Somme it was the French that made the first considerable gain, and all through this battle the French part was material while the defence of Verdun had still to be maintained. But with the Battle of Arras in April of this year, the British practically took over the main task of the western offensive. The British task was materially increased when the French attack at the Aisne failed to make decisive progress and incurred enormous casualties.

To-day the British are doing the main job on the West. It is no reproach upon the French that this is so, as the French have certainly done their share and more than their share. Yet it is only just to the British to recognise that they are making the big sacrifice now after delays that were long, but were inevitable, given British unpreparedness. The British have arrived and it is the British armies that are delivering the heavy blows.

The measure of the British effort is not the respective fronts held by British and French armies, but the amount of action on the two fronts. Already we have seen this year three considerable British attacks—the Arras battle, which was the most successful in size and ground gained of any western attack, one of the most successful in artillery captured in the history of the war, the retaking of the Messines Ridge, and now the new offensive in the Ypres sector. With these three, one should perhaps class the Hill 70 exploit of the Cana-

dians, which was brilliant and of permanent value.

If anyone ever doubted that the British would arrive, these doubts have been answered. Britain is now paying the price that France paid over two bloody years. Her artillery has seized and maintained the mastery over the German. Slowly, steadily, surely the British are breaking down the material and the moral resources of Germany. Because the Russians collapsed the chance of a decision this year has been banished, but the British strategy is that of Grant, is that of wearing down, and there are unmistakable signs that the Germans are beginning to weaken, although their resistance must still command admiration.

The new British campaign seems certain to be one of the great campaigns of the war. It already shows greater power than that at the Somme and it is not marred by the early blunders of that former battle. The Somme "show," as the British call it, was the training school of the new British army. It was expensive, it was bloody, it was protracted, but the results were visible at the end; they were discoverable in the Beaumont Hamel victory last autumn and in the Arras offensive this year. To-day the British army is unmistakably the finest army in the world. All the other nations suffer from the loss of the younger and physically fitter men. The British have still a considerable share of their youth left and the flower of the manhood of Great Britain and the Colonies is now suffering and achieving as did the flower of the French at the Marne and at Verdun.

To-day the British have taken over the main task from the French; they have also had to assume much of the Russian work. They justly expect a measure of relief next year, when American troops are available in considerable numbers for the final campaign. Then, France, too, will be able to spend reserves; a new class will have come on the field. But until America arrives the British task will be of great importance to the Allied cause. Meantime, the character of this task is not to be mistaken. The British are not seeking this year the decision which Russian failure has postponed. They are simply striving to continue the pressure and the pounding, to permit no moment of relaxation and recuperation to the Germans until Russia recovers, which is a hope, and until America arrives, which is a reasonable expectation.

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF THE POPE'S PEACE PROPOSALS.

It is indeed refreshing to come across so sane a summary of the actual position which has been disclosed by the reception of the Pope's Peace Note, as is to be found in *The American Review of Reviews*. Ever since the war began Dr. Albert Shaw has set out the actual situation for the benefit of his readers with wonderful acumen, and it is gratifying to find that he, at any rate, has retained that sense of proportion which so many Americans have lost since their country itself became a belligerent. In his resume of the situation he sets out the manner in which America is preparing herself for active belligerency. "We propose," he says, "to make America strong for justice, order and righteous peace, but we must not forget how terrible and exhausting is warfare, and how necessary it is to stop the war at the earliest possible moment consistent with honourable principles." He goes on to say:—

THE GREAT OBJECT—TO END THE WAR

Those who are now engaged to the full absorption of all their thought and energy in these vast military preparations, having been given their war tasks at the mandate of the nation, cannot be expected to be thinking in terms of the onlooking and gentle-minded peacemaker. They are now bound to think in terms of war, because we went to war only when we had exhausted peace arguments and peace appeals. This does not seem to be a time when the nations are prepared for the definite discussion of peace proposals. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that last winter there were only two possible sources of influential peace activity, one being the American Presidency and the other the Roman Catholic Papacy. For the past five months we have been numbered among the fighting powers; and the Pope is the only personage in the world now remaining who has sufficient influence from the standpoint of neutrality and the higher interests of humanity, to make a fresh appeal for peace, and to lay down the principles upon which lasting reconciliation may be accomplished. Those whose duty it is to push the war cannot be expected at all times to be ready for the discussion of peace. But in countries governed

by public opinion the people themselves ought always to be living in consciousness of peace aims and objects. And organs of public opinion ought to take their part courageously and without flinching in all such discussions, with a view to shortening the duration of war if possible. When, therefore, peace is discussed in the German Reichstag, is laboured for by European Socialists, or is urged by so eminent a neutral as the Pope, the discussion cannot be wholly sidetracked and might as well be taken up in a straightforward way by the press, even though the Governments may not find the conditions ripe for successful negotiation of an official character.

WAR AS AN OFFICIAL PREDILECTION.

The time has arrived when the question of peace should be considered openly and frankly. The long-suffering people who make up what we call "the public," in Germany, Austria, France, and England, have not hitherto discussed their war problems freely; and the American people have been placed under such bonds of patient self-restraint, and have become so much the victims of misleading news from Europe, that they of all peoples in the world are now perhaps least well-informed about what is going on. The individuals who through more or less accidental modes of selection have come together to form what the newspapers call "official circles," are playing with vast forces and powers in ways that commit them to the prosecution of war with an instinctive prejudice against the mention of peace. They are participating in the "great game," and resent interruption. Those just and moderate counsels that must prevail if peace is to be made do not find response in the minds of the war enthusiasts. The newspapers, and the great business and financial interests, are in the main committed to the war logic, and to the practical war projects of officialdom. Moreover, somebody gets the billions of dollars that officialdom is spending. The personal fame and fortune of hosts of influential men in America, as in the other belligerent countries, are now bound up with the playing of the stupendous war game "to a finish." The rights, interests,

and desires of the plain people are all on the side of peace, provided the terms be reasonable and the prospect of permanence be good. The intensity of the peace-longing of hundreds of millions of suffering people in Europe and elsewhere is only equalled by the discipline they show.

FOUNDATIONS OF LASTING PEACE.

The United States went into this war to help "make the world safe for democracy." This can only be accomplished by ending excessive militarism in the form of vast land armaments, and excessive navalism in the sense of fighting power on the common seas exercised by individual nations in their own interest. Furthermore, there can be no stable peace in the world until the colonial system—that is to say, the obsolete "empire business"—is brought to an end. It is true enough that Germany's struggle for an imperial place in the world brought on this war. But it is only less true that the imperial conquests, ambitions, rivalries, and selfish aims of Great Britain, Russia, Austria, Italy, and France have very much to do with creating Germany's false and belated imperial programmes. Russia now sees these things in a new light. The people of the United States have seen them clearly, and will continue to do so unless their judgment is warped by the constant tendency to direct American public opinion from London and Paris. Americans should not for a moment fail to see that if the larger aims of this war are accomplished the lesser details can be worked out along lines of sound principle. The Allies are now in some danger of yielding to the guidance of the same false principles that dominated Germany and Austria at the start. That is to say, they are demanding the mere spoils of victory. The fairest-minded man in the world is the Englishman. But it may not be conceded that his fair-mindedness entitles him to the dominant place in the world. The English mind cannot always entertain—in matters of world-wide policy—the unwelcome view that the same rules and standards should apply to different countries. Thus England declares she must keep Germany's colonies for their own good. The British Empire may indeed be said to furnish a working model. One way out of the present agony might be an insistent application for membership in the British Empire on the part of numerous other countries. That an indefinite continuance of the present terrible Euro-

pean war is likely to spread ideals of British justice through the earth, may well be doubted. Liberty and progress are not propagated by force.

EMPIRE GREED THE CHIEF DANGER.

Behind the scenes, the peace talk and peace efforts in Europe are incessant. If the United States had not gone into the war, France and England would almost certainly by this time have made peace with Germany, on terms not sufficiently advantageous to France. The facts have been kept from the American people because it is the official view in Paris, London and Washington that the people cannot now be trusted with the truth. When the whole truth about the war is known in future, the discredit will be variously distributed. Meanwhile, all people who are able to keep their heads cool in exciting times, and who are not affected by selfish interests or ambitions, are keenly desirous to have peace made without one moment of needless postponement. The United States regards the cause of the *Entente* Allies as incomparably more just and righteous than the cause of Germany. Our country became belligerent in order to help end the war on sound and lasting principles. President Wilson has stated those principles repeatedly, and they must not be waived. The danger is that America's assistance will be used by her European associates for the very opposite of the reason that induced her to go to war. The British say they will not give up the German colonies that they have seized. The French say that Alsace-Lorraine must be taken away from Germany by force. The Italians say that they must have considerable portions of Austria which they had not pretended to claim during the long period of their alliance with Austria, and which they began to claim only after Austria was involved in war, and was apparently approaching defeat at Russia's hands. This war, as we have so often stated, is the climax of the mad imperial rivalries of the European Powers. It would be a shocking thing if America's enormous sacrifices in entering the war were to be used chiefly in assisting several of these European empires to enlarge their holdings and consolidate their positions. The thing that is wrong is the system itself. America did not go into the war to help one set of empires dominate the world more securely by crushing their rivals.

THE VATICAN ADDRESS.

These remarks, if somewhat rudely frank, are made from a sense of duty in view of the tone in which many newspapers in Allied countries, and not a few in the United States, made haste last month to assail, the noble and beneficent peace address issued from the Vatican. Pope Benedict's outline of a peace basis consists of two parts—namely, that which is fundamental, permanent, and of immeasurable importance to all the people of the world; and, second, that which has to do with specific adjustments. The spirit of the Pope's address is lofty, impartial and sincere. The proposals, as respects essential things, are precisely those that President Wilson has more than once laid down. The suggestions concerning matters of practical adjustment are beneficent in principle, and do not purport to be other than tentative in concrete application. The irritated criticism of the Allied press has either disparaged and dismissed the Vatican rescript as "made in Germany," or else has turned the discussion upon matters of detail in practical adjustment, such as the nature and extent of Belgian indemnification or the future of Alsace-Lorraine. These discussions have been unworthy in view of the horrors of the war and the great moral value of the Pope's attempt at peacemaking.

THE POPE'S LARGER PROPOSALS.

The opening observations of Pope Benedict express in a general way a yearning desire for the welfare of the nations, deplore the cruelty and destruction of the war, and appeal to Europe to save itself from suicide. The address then proceeds to make practical suggestions. The important and permanent proposals are as follow (this rather awkward translation having been given out by the State Department at Washington, August 16):—

First, the fundamental point must be that the material force of arms shall give way to the moral force of right, whence shall proceed a just agreement of all upon the simultaneous and reciprocal decrease of armaments, according to rules and guarantees to be established, in the necessary and sufficient measure for the maintenance of public order in every State; then, taking the place of arms, the institution of arbitration, with its high pacifying function, according to rules to be drawn in concert and under sanctions to be determined against any State which would decline either to refer international questions to arbitrators or to accept its awards.

When supremacy of right is thus established, let every obstacle to ways of communication of the peoples be removed by insuring, through rules to be also determined, the true freedom and community of the seas, which, on the one hand, would eliminate any causes of conflict, and, on the other hand, would open to all new sources of prosperity and progress.

These ideas are in keeping with those that Mr. Wilson had proclaimed on behalf of the United States. The Vatican follows our Government in demanding general disarmament, and the abolition of militarism as an international menace. It accepts the American demand for world organisation for the sake of settling differences between nations under rules of law, to be duly enforced. The references to the free use of the seas and the protection of legitimate commerce are in accord with all sound and modern views. The full acceptance of these ideas would insure a permanent peace. The world would thus be made "safe for democracy." The objects for which the United States went to war would be fully attained if these principles as laid down by the Vatican were adopted and put into practical effect.

DETAILS OF SETTLEMENT.

Compared with these great outlines of world harmony and control by rules of reason and law, the mere settlement of particular questions becomes of slight moment. Yet in the Paris, London, and New York discussion of the Vatican document, almost no attention has been given to the important things, while innumerable columns have been written upon the minor issues. If the principles of disarmament and of the equitable adjustment of disputes can be agreed upon, the detailed applications lose vital importance. As against the clamour of those who oppose the Vatican's suggestions for territorial and pecuniary settlements, we merely place before our readers the calm and moderate language of the Papal document itself. These suggestions, in the version of our State Department, are as follow:—

As for the damages to be repaid and the cost of the war, we see no other way of solving the question than by setting up the general principle of entire and reciprocal conditions, which would be justified by the immense benefit to be derived from disarmament, all the more as one could not understand that such carnage could go on for mere economic reasons. If certain particular reasons stand against this in certain cases, let them be weighed in justice and equity.

But these specific agreements, with the immense advantages that flow from them, are not possible unless territory now occupied is reciprocally restituted. Therefore, on the part of Germany, there should be total evacuation of Belgium, with guarantees of its entire political, military, and economic independence toward any power whatever; evacuation also of the French territory; on the part of the other belligerents, a similar restitution of the German colonies.

As regards territorial questions, as, for instance, those that are disputed by Italy and Austria, by Germany and France, there is reason to hope that, in consideration of the immense advantages of durable peace with disarmament, the contending parties will examine them in a conciliatory spirit, taking into account, as far as is just and possible, as we have said formerly, the aspirations of the population, and, if occasion arises, adjusting private interests to the general good of the great human society.

The same spirit of equity and justice must guide the examination of other territorial and political questions, notably those relative to Armenia, the Balkan States, and the territories forming part of the old Kingdom of Poland, for which, in particular, its noble historical traditions and suffering, particularly undergone in the present war, must win with justice, the sympathies of the nation.

RELATIVE COSTS OF WAR AND PEACE.

It should be borne in mind that Pope Benedict is offering general suggestions, and is not attempting to anticipate the necessary judgments of a peace conference. The longer the war goes on, the more true it is that questions of monetary indemnity lose importance. The Washington financial authorities tell us that as a mere starter the United States must raise in the first war year, by loans and taxes, twenty billions of dollars. England in three years of the war has spent only 25 per cent. more than we are to raise before we have begun to be fairly on a war footing. What we spent in the entire four years of our colossal Civil War would now carry us through only three or four weeks of our preliminary effort to help our European friends in a war in which we are not as yet directly engaged. The second year of the war will be much more costly for us. The British and German rates of war expenditure have steadily increased from the start. In comparison with all this destruction of resources, the restoration of Belgium would be the merest financial trifle. It would be like comparing the cost of a street-car ticket to the price of a luxurious limousine. Everybody knows that Belgium must be restored and helped. It would probably make for the best future relations if the entire world should join in

reconstructing all the regions most damaged by the war. Poles and Armenians have been the chief sufferers. The cost of the war for a single week would probably pay in full for restoring the towns and cities of Belgium and France. A careful inquiry would doubtless show that much of the physical damage to Belgium has already been remedied during the three years since the German armies came into occupation. Serbia and Roumania will be entitled to generous treatment.

SOME MISTAKEN PRESUMPTIONS.

It must not be supposed for a moment that the world is going to tolerate the principle that "finding is keeping" when it comes to settling the results of the war. Merely because one belligerent rather than another happened to seize and occupy certain territories, it does not follow presumably that the old-time practices of conquest are going to be respected by all nations. The German colonies were seized by the British because that happened to be a very easy step for the British to take at the outset of a world war. The presumption that these colonies must therefore remain permanently in British hands is quite too crude for times like these. It does not follow, on the other hand, that they ought to be given back to Germany. These outlying regions of Africa, and these undeveloped islands of the southern seas, ought not to be regarded as the private plunder either of England or of Germany. They should be administered for the public good, under public auspices. Self-governing South Africa should take her place at once as a full member of the family of nations. German South-west Africa should in due time become an equal member of the South African confederation. German and English commercial, mining, and other interests should be guaranteed and safeguarded in this Union of South Africa. England has now annexed Egypt, precisely as Austria a few years ago annexed Bosnia. And England certainly should continue to administer Egypt, with a view to the protection of all interests and with the object of building up, slowly but surely, the native peoples of Egypt and the Soudan.

TURKEY IN TRUST.

The Germans are wonderful merchants and international traders, but very poor colonial administrators. Their commercial interests in the world should be given just

and even-handed treatment. They should be encouraged to go on with their engineering and economic developments in Asia Minor, but with the elimination of all military and imperial ideas. Asia Minor should be governed for the welfare and development of its populations, and neutralised under international guarantees. It should be reconstructed by experts and administered in trust, somewhat as we carry on the Philippines. Turks, Armenians, Greeks—all races and elements—should be protected in their religious and civil freedom until Asia Minor, under the name of Anatolia or some other name—not "*Turkey*"—should fifty years hence be worthy of a place in the family of nations.

BOUNDARY ISSUES.

Pope Benedict suggests that the Alsace-Lorraine question be settled upon its merits. It is no longer a French question. The peace of the world is involved in having this matter determined permanently. It will soon be fifty years since France relinquished her claims upon Alsace-Lorraine. A vastly larger thing—the final defeat of Germany's schemes of military dominance—is the issue in the present war. However much we might like to see Alsace-Lorraine restored to France, we cannot afford to have the return accomplished as a result of military conquest, apart from assurances of permanent reconciliation. The one thing to be gained is that Alsace-Lorraine shall cease to be a bone of contention. An adjustment must be found that will be accepted by French and Germans alike in their inmost hearts as well as in treaties. Furthermore, the adjustment must have the express sanction of other nations. The world cannot tolerate the continuance of feuds that endanger the general peace. Italy's ambitions are some-

what antagonistic to those of Serbia and Greece, as well as to those of Austria-Hungary and Turkey. It will be extremely difficult to settle affairs in the Balkans and the eastern Mediterranean, if indulgence must be shown to the claims of various nations. France and Italy must subordinate particular aims to general principles.

WHY THE WAR MUST GO ON.

The trouble is that the great Governments of Europe do not really want or believe in disarmament, arbitration, freedom of seas, and the wise devolution of menacing empires. The interests of the plain people who live in these European countries are not served by their ruling classes. Statesmanship in Europe thinks and acts in certain grooves. The military and political castes have their professional games to play, and these are deadly to the common people. These games tax the people oppressively for foolish schemes of empire that demand great armies and navies. After all, the world cannot be made "safe for democracy" until democracy comes into its own in the leading nations. Russia and the United States are ready for disarmament, a league of nations, arbitration, freedom of the ocean, respect for the rights of all peoples and races. But it is to be feared that no other great nations, on either side of the war—except China—are ready to stand on the platform of President Wilson and Pope Benedict in so far as the real aims of their ruling classes are concerned. They are all still thinking in terms of national rivalry, and the idea of a peace based upon disarmament and the settlement of all issues by an unselfish appeal to reason, makes it likely that the war must go on longer, until certain rulers are superseded.



CREATING A NEW MEXICO.

Owing to the manner in which the terrific struggle in Europe monopolises our attention, we know hardly anything about what is going on in other parts of the world. We have a general idea that the Mexicans are still fighting away industriously amongst themselves, destroying property, and pursuing robber methods generally. But apparently Carranza, who has been properly elected President of the Republic, is already hard at work rebuilding the structure of social and economic life in the country. *The American Review of Reviews* published a most interesting article on "The Present State of Mexico," from the pen of a trained observer who has just returned from a long sojourn in that much disturbed country. He begins by stating that the Mexican problem is not one of reconstruction, but of construction. The new President is not engaged in restoring beneficent conditions prevailing before the revolution, but in building up an entirely new state.

The task is proving very much more difficult and complex than the idealists who first led the revolt against Diaz imagined. They dreamed that latent under the thwarting force of the autocratic government were impulses ready to give economic power and political freedom to those millions of Mexicans, a vital part of Mexico but scarcely partaking of its bounty. But the injection of revolution revealed a virulence beyond expectations; and for five years Mexico has now been chiefly occupied in determining through civil warfare into whose hands the power of reordering its internal life was to be placed. By dint of superior integrity and force General Carranza (he prefers to be called citizen Carranza) has achieved the office of President in a Government based on a new constitution and committed to dedicating the resources of Mexico to the benefit of the Mexicans.

The President went into office on May 1. With him there were elected a Chamber of Deputies and a Senate. This Congress has been in session continuously since April, enacting laws, re-establishing civil government and devising means for putting into operation the social-economic programme outlined in the new constitution.

The President has not fully organised his new Government. In several of the

more important departments, sub-secretaries are still in charge. He apparently proposes to proceed with caution in choosing his cabinet. This is necessary, both to obtain loyalty and to seek out men of sufficient capacity. These latter, at least, are not over-numerous among the revolutionary survivors.

The President finds the business of Government almost entirely committed to him. The Mexican people, apparently, have concluded that they have done their part in fighting for five years and now propose to commit the work of demonstrating the utility of the revolution to the men or man placed in power in consequence of it. There are no ardent groups of citizens discussing ways and means and proffering suggestions to the Government. Congress debates, but the President—advised frequently by more or less expert commissions—plans and promulgates. The truth is, the Mexicans now realise that they prefer by habit, and perhaps by virtue of inherent qualities, to have the bothersome details of Government attended to by others.

Mr. Carranza, it appears, now appreciates this circumstance and is proceeding with his work according to his own views and conceptions of Mexico's needs without much public consultation and very little public discussion. He at all events maintains a practically uninterrupted silence.

ORGANISED REBELLION SUPPRESSED.

The revolutionary or organised internal warfare has spent itself, but there are still guerilla activities and locally powerful bands of bandits. The general complexion of the country is pacific with spots of disorder more or less virulent. The Government depends on the loyalty of the generals for the maintenance of order where the population is not too surfeited with fighting to be incited, and to suppress active disorder. The loyalty of a general has a sensitive and elusive property which causes constant anxiety to the civil authorities. The power and obvious status of a general give him a wider authority than his military command implies. Having suppressed organised opposition to his authority by rebels, Mr. Carranza is now largely concerned in preventing surreptitious or avowed hostility among his military chieftains. Up to date, he has suc-

ceeded remarkably in controlling them and the most reliable observers now feel that he will ultimately succeed entirely in making the military wholly amenable to law and order.

Courts are being re-established under the new constitution, and the civil processes, at least as impartial and trustworthy as before the revolution, are resuming their function in the life of the nation. But the business of the courts is severely limited by the restriction of commercial business and the continuance of the moratorium on debts. Moreover, special decrees, superseding law or anticipating new statutory enactments, issued by Mr. Carranza as "First Chief," are still in force in numerous particulars.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Business is slowly emerging from complete demoralisation. Banking has practically collapsed for a variety of causes, due in part to mismanagement before the revolution, and in larger part, perhaps, to ruthless treatment by the Government, beginning in the brief rule of Huerta. Plans are on foot for the reconstruction of a banking system to be controlled by the Government. Railways are operating over practically all the country, but by no means satisfactorily. Shortage of cars and motive power and stretches of dangerous territory make operation hazardous and irregular. But almost regular train service now operates from Laredo, Texas, to Mexico City and has continued for some months with only rare mishaps.

Mines are resuming as rapidly as circumstances permit and have probably reached about 35 per cent. normal operation. The oil business is active but under embarrassment, of one kind or another, almost continuously. But the condition of the oil business, apart from the fear of Government assumption of control, is steadily improving.

Commercial business is greatly handicapped by the lack of a credit system and the restricted currency, only gold and silver and fractional coins being in circulation, in an amount about one-half the pre-revolutionary total. Manufacturing is never important in Mexico, and such as exists is gradually resuming. All business in Mexico, however, is handicapped, not only by reason of internal difficulties, but because it is almost entirely a matter of foreign enterprise. Many foreigners left the country during the troubled period, and

the great war has prevented their return or discouraged the coming of others to take their places.

The Mexican is not in business to any appreciable extent. He has neither capital nor the necessary zest for it. The revolutionists are discovering that business activity is not merely a matter of opportunity but of a complex of habits and desires which the Mexican's background and composition do not prompt. The anti-foreigner policy of the new constitution will unquestionably yield to the necessity of inviting foreign co-operation in the industrial and commercial upbuilding of the country.

But it is not likely that the country will be delivered over to foreign capital again as it was, for all practical purposes, in the latter years of the Diaz rule. Mexican business has been chastened by the revolution not only in Mexico but in business policy in the lands of its origin. There is apparent a disposition to recognise the right of the Mexican to participate, if he can or will, in the enterprises that develop his country and the propriety of the Government's obtaining some immediate benefit in the form of taxes from business success. Undoubtedly Mexico needs foreign business enterprise. But successful foreign enterprise in Mexico need hardly look forward to generous profits and a special Mexican halo in addition.

AGRARIAN PROBLEMS.

Agriculture is so much in the hands of large estate holders frightened out of the country by the revolution that it has not had a fair chance since the country quieted down. Too many *haciendados*, as the great farmers are called, are still in exile or living obscurely in the large cities. But wherever there are oxen left and there is reasonable assurance of safety the peons are back in the fields.

The Government is returning many confiscated estates, and as yet no policy of land subdivision has been promulgated. There has been a good deal of disillusionment as to the desire or capacity of the peon, Indian that he is, to settle down on his own farm and his own responsibility. Few people now believe that Mexico will become a land of small rural proprietorships within a generation, and not then unless that generation is devoted to intensive education in literacy and so-called civilised habits. And education will not

bring this about unless through education the delights and benefits of independence and proprietorship are demonstrated to the sceptical and simple aborigine.

Education has been taken out of the hands of the church, and the Government has opened a number of new schools, notably under Alvarado's leadership in Yucatan. But there is, as yet, no fully organised new system of public education. If Mr. Carranza accomplishes anything he will construct a public-school system for Mexico, for his heart is wisely set on that achievement.

ON THE UPGRADE.

No observer of months can be completely certain of his conclusions regarding a country as volatile and inexperienced in self-control as Mexico. But, liable to explosive episodes as Mexico is, it has also a remarkable facility for resuming the appearance and manner of its customary pacific life. This is due to the simple organisation, or lack of organisation, of the Mexican economy. Thirteen million Indians living with and largely under the guidance of two-million-odd Mexican-Spanish and unmixed foreigners are not greatly disturbed by a period of warfare.

Physically the country is not possessed by the Mexican as we know him, the half-quarter, or other-part Spanish, part Indian. Numerically he is not strong enough to control the country by force. But he governs it with the assistance of

the Indians, some of whom are valuable factors in every undertaking. The numerous part of the population will not and cannot govern the country. Its ideals are not the ideals of its Europeanised fellow countrymen. Consequently Mexico is not by any means a nation of common purposes or united striving towards a common goal. The peon could live a life of ease and complete contentment without the facilities of civilised life. Unaided he will not achieve civilisation.

Perhaps, the task of advancing Mexico to the European level is too severe for the minority who must do the work. It has proved so in the past in respect of commerce and industry. A far-sighted policy would encourage immigration and the further infusion of European ideals and energy into the tranquillity of the peon mind and temperment. But force will not civilise Mexico. It has attempted the task for four hundred years and failed.

The path ahead of the Mexican Government is neither bright nor smooth. The Government has found the path and has set out on its way. That is a considerable achievement. A multitude of obstacles and problems will beset it and are now giving it trouble. Help in meeting and overcoming them, and continued patience and perseverance on the part of all concerned, will bring prosperity and enlightenment to Mexico for which all its travail and chastening must assuredly have been in preparation.

Q.—Is it true that only one-third of the flour mills in Russia are now working?

A.—According to *The London Miller*, the number of large mills in Russia was 2400, with an annual capacity of 500,000,000 poods. There were in addition a large number of smaller mills, with an annual capacity of 1,350,000,000 poods, a total of 30,000,000 tons altogether. At the present time only 850 of the big mills are grinding grain, and probably as large a percentage of the small concerns are idle. The chief reason for this is not because workmen are lacking, but because of the transport difficulties, which prevent the mills from getting either coal or wheat in sufficient quantities.

Q.—Is the use of silver coins still allowed in France?

A.—Yes, silver coins are minted in great quantities, but there has been difficulty in obtaining small change. In order to relieve the situation authorisation was recently given to issue bronze and nickel money, pierced with a round hole, to the value of not more than 15,000,000 francs. No gold coins at all are now being minted in the country. In Italy the silver coins are all being called in, and if after the end of the year any person is found in possession of 10 lire worth of silver coins he is liable to a fine of 1000 lire (£40). In Italy 1-lire notes have long been in constant use.



BEHIND THE GERMAN VEIL.*

J. M. de Beaufort certainly manages to give an intensely interesting record of conditions in the Kaiser's Empire in this record of a journalistic pilgrimage through Germany in the second year of the war. Occasionally one cannot but marvel at the success which uniformly attended Mr. de Beaufort in bluffing his way about the country and into the most secret of secret places. We are indeed somewhat amazed to find that he did not interview the Kaiser himself, and was not able to personally inspect the carefully guarded wonders of the Heligoland defences, as he did those of Kiel and Wilhelmshafen!

Almost every correspondent who has ventured into Germany has, by his writings, added to our conviction that the Germans were sticklers for formalities and that they always insisted on inspecting—and again and again viseing passes and official papers which alone gave the outsider a chance to penetrate, even the outermost fringe of Teutonic officialdom. Mr. de Beaufort, however shatters all those ideas. He glories in the fact that he had no passes of any sort whatever. He relied solely upon a letter from von Hindenburg's nephew, a chance acquaintance in Rome, to the Field-Marshal. On this introduction he builded the entire edifice of interviews and special visits to prohibited areas he tells of in his book. He indirectly pays a most glowing compliment to the spirit of law and order which is everywhere manifest in Germany.

If the notice, "Verboten," appears on any door, passage, lawn, railway trains, church, or anything else, then in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand it is unnecessary to take any further safeguards. Why? Because the German Government, the German authorities, have as much confidence in popular respect for the law, as the people have in the authorities being justified in making these restrictions.

Not once, but a hundred times, have I been able to test this mental attitude. A good, law-abiding, respectable German citizen will not dream of passing through that door, gate, field, or step into that railroad train.

If anyone is seen on the other side of that door, in that field, or on that train—why, it never occurs to any official that he is a trespasser, that he has ignored the command, broken the law. "What good German would do that!" "Of course," so he argues, "that man must have excellent authority to be where he is, otherwise he would not be there."

I wonder if you realise of what inestimable advantage it is to a journalist to know that side of the German mind? I have made use of that knowledge in the three months that I spent in Germany again and again, and it has never failed me. I have been to Kiel, I have walked along the shores of Kiel Bay. I have travelled down the Elbe, have talked to the Canal officials. I travelled from Berlin to the German Eastern Headquarters to see Hindenburg, yet I never owned a single pass or permit, or any other authorisation to enter the lines of communication. Being where I was, they were taken for granted. I have travelled on military trains, I have passed scores of sentries and guards with loaded rifles. I took photographs in all parts of Germany.

I was challenged once by General Count von Schlieffen in Allenstein, who, after he found that I had no permit, sent me back to Berlin—i.e., he told me to go back. He did not think it necessary to see that I went. It was "Verboten" to go on; therefore to his German mind, that was synonymous with going back. I did no such thing, but travelled in exactly the opposite direction!

I should like to see the journalist, no matter whether English, French, or neutral, trying that little game in the British or French lines! Oh! la! la! I could tell many sad tales on that score, several from personal experience.

I remember one melancholy occasion when I tried to get into Ypres without the usual batch of Belgian, British and French permits. I did not get within ten miles of it, and I vowed, after that experiment: "Never again!"

Mr. de Beaufort "bluffed" his way through Germany then in a way he could never have done in a less law-abiding and trusting community! In France, in England, apparently, the "Verboten" sign is

*"Behind the German Veil." By J. M. de Beaufort. (Hutchinson and Co., London, 5/-.)

merely put up to stop the simple-minded. Rigid precautions must be taken to prevent the free and independent democrat from evading the law.

Mr. de Beaufort had the great advantage of speaking German well, of being a Dutchman, and of having spent three years of his youth in Germany. He was, therefore, able to pose as a friend of the Germans and to convince them that he could be of great service to them by his articles in American and other papers—including the London *Daily Telegraph* forsooth! Although he disliked the Germans and Germany from his youth up, ever since, in fact, he left the parental roof and his kindly English tutor to enter a very exclusive German school where the coming of a foreigner was regarded as an intrusion, he says he did not at first hate them, that came later when he constituted himself "an unofficial investigator of the whole rotten German fabric of spying and lying." Yet, he admits that so convincing are the German arguments, so plausible, logical and final that out of every thousand real neutrals that enter Germany, nine hundred and ninety-nine succumb within a few short weeks to the German "ideals" and points of view. An open mind always succumbs, "you must carry the strongest pro-Ally or pro-British convictions in order to be able to withstand the German influence getting hold of you."

I may as well confess right now that even I, heart, body and soul pro-British as I am and have been for twelve years, even I realise that at times it was only the strong, impenetrable armour of my motto, "Right or Wrong—England" that kept me unscathed.

One almost begins to imagine, in view of this heavy casualty list amongst unbiased visiting neutrals, that there may possibly be something in the enemy's contentions.

It is impossible in the short space of a review to follow our hero on his marvellous travels in Germany and accompany him as he inspected the sacrosanct Kiel Canal, photographed hidden fortifications or gaily passed through "Verboten" doors. That he did all this and is still living to tell the tale is a wonderful tribute to his bluffing abilities and to the gullibility of German officials. Undoubtedly, the reader will be intensely interested in what Mr. de Beaufort has to say, though there will be moments during the perusal of the book when marvel at the ability of the writer to carry out what he describes will some-

what detract from the complete enjoyment of the text.

Of his wonderful interviews with Hindenburg and Rathenau, and Helfferich and other notables reference cannot be made here though the opinion of the present Commander-in-Chief about Russia in 1916 must be quoted. Mr. de Beaufort gives the following account of what he said:—

He spoke with great respect of the Russian soldier, but maintained that they lacked proper leaders. "It takes more than ten years to reform the moral of an officers' corps. From what I have learned, the moral of the Russian officer is to this day much the same as it was in the Russo-Japanese war. We will show you one of their ambulance trains captured near Kirbaty. It is the last word in luxury. By all means give your wounded all the comfort, all the attention you can; but I do not think that car-loads of champagne, oysters, caviere and the finest French liqueurs are necessary adjuncts to an ambulance train. The Russian soldier is splendid, but his discipline is not of the same quality as that of our men. In our armies discipline is the result of spiritual and moral training; in the Russian armies discipline stands for dumb obedience.

Let me emphasise, and with all the force I can; "Efficiency and training are everything." There lies their difficulty. I have many officers here with me who have fought opposite the English, and all are united in their opinion that they are brave and worthy opponents; but one criticism was also unanimously made: "Their officers often lead their men needlessly to death, either from sheer foolhardiness, but more often through inefficiency."

Although he did not express this opinion to me personally, I have it on excellent authority that Hindenburg believes this war will last close on four years at least. And the result—stalemate. He does not believe that the Allies will be able to push the Germans out of Belgium, France or Poland.

The most valuable part of the book tells of the enemy attitude towards the war and the feelings of English people, Americans and neutrals living in Germany.

I have talked, since the war, to hundreds of Germans of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, and one feeling is common to them all, viz.: Confidence, absolute confidence and trust in their leaders. Everyone feels a certain responsibility, feels that he would endanger the interests of the Fatherland by not doing his bit, the particular work he has been assigned to carry out, whatever that may be. While I was with the Belgian army I read a letter found on a dead German private, written by his mother. The concluding sentence was: "But we must not complain. The Fatherland has called, and we must give our all and our best ungrudgingly, and God will give us solace and strength to bear whatever the costs, whatever the sorrows may be. Be brave, my son, and God bless you!"

That spirit of patriotism and of confidence is a mighty factor to reckon with, and should not be overlooked.

Whilst he found Germans generally convinced that final victory was certain, well-informed people did not take that view.

Already in 1915 many well-informed Germans admitted to me that Germany could not win, but they maintained that, on the other hand, she would not lose either, except of course such losses as naturally fall to the lot of all nations engaged in a war of such magnitude. Among the sayings most frequently and confidently quoted were the Chancellors words:—

"Germany cannot be destroyed."

Hatred of England has been fanned into active flame in Germany, just as hatred of Germany has been cultivated in British lands, but Mr. de Beaufort unintentionally gives us some light on how neutrals, like himself, confirm the lies which Germans are asked to believe but might hesitate so to do were it not for first-hand testimony.

No German home is complete without a number of caricatures of Britain. One of the most popular is called "Family life in England." It represents a party of women, and about sixteen children of various ages from two upwards, seated round the table, in the middle of which is a large heap of rifle bullets. The family, armed with knives, files, scissors, and all sorts of odd kitchen utensils are labouring away at the bullets transforming them into dum-dums. Underneath it you may read: "In England, too, the women at home are making 'love gifts' for their dear ones in the field." The professor whom you are visiting notes the interest you show in the drawing. "Clever, isn't it?" he inquires proudly. "Very clever, very clever, indeed!" you reply with alacrity, but with a certain thoughtfulness in your voice. "It is so very realistic," you continue. "When I was last in London (don't forget to mention this with suitable apologies and regrets), I witnessed many similar scenes."

British papers, he says, were on sale in all the larger cities. *The Times*, which sold at 1s., was the most popular and as a rule, could be got two days after publication. He found that foreigners in Germany had unbounded faith in the ultimate victory of the Germans and concludes that the chances of a revolution against the present regime are very remote indeed. It must be remembered though that he wrote more than a year ago.

At the office of the American Consul-General in Munich, on the first day of my arrival in Germany, I met an Englishwoman, a Miss Welch, a teacher of English, in some of the schools. Now, I thought, she will no doubt be able to give me some very useful facts; she will tell me where to look for the weak spots in this great German machine.

So when she left I accompanied her, and the moment we were alone I said: "Now, Miss Welch, you can talk quite frankly to me. Tell me something about the real conditions here." She stared at me with undisguised surprise. "Why," she exclaimed, "what do you mean? Things are exactly as you see them. I am sure Germany is going to win; nobody can beat this nation. I have nothing to complain of. I must report myself twice a day to the police, but otherwise I go on the same as before the war. I have no trouble at all, and the people are in no way unkind to me. Do you know," she added, with admiration and respect in her voice, "that in all these months I have never seen a drunken soldier in the streets or anywhere else?" Professor Fullerton, an American Exchange Professor of Pennsylvania University, whom I met in Munich, was strongly pro-German. In the most sincere, the most convincing manner, he assured me: "The Germans are a peace-loving people. There is no element in America's population that is more orderly, industrious and law-abiding than the German element. The German at home has the same characteristics. The land is an orderly land, and the population is enlightened, disciplined and educated to respect the law. The rights of even the humblest are jealously guarded. The courts are just. The success of the Germans is obtained as the result of careful preparation and unremitting industry. No one who lives among them, and learns to know them, can feel that he has to do with an aggressive and predatory people."

Similar eulogies were launched at me day after day by educated neutral people. When even foreigners feel so strongly about Germany, it seems to me that the chances of a revolution against the present regime are very remote, not to say non-existent.

Mr. de Beaufort occasionally came in contact with prisoners of war and visited hospitals. He gives the following account of his experiences at Munich:—

At the Bavarian "Kriegsacademie" (Staff College), in Munich, which has been turned into a large hospital, I came across the first Allied prisoners of war. There were a large number of French and some English prisoners there. I talked to several of them—to one J. Featherstone, belonging to the Rifle Brigade, and to Private G. Kelly, of the King's Royal Rifles. I spoke to them alone, out of earshot of any of the warders or other hospital employees. Both assured me that they were being well treated and had nothing whatever to complain of. It was the same with a number of Frenchmen I questioned. There was a man of the 70th Regiment present, a certain Perouff, and another of the 76th Regiment, by name of Henri Cassies. I had lengthy conversations with both, and they stated most emphatically that the treatment they received was excellent. There were about forty men to each ward, the rooms were high and well ventilated, and each had a bathroom with two baths, a shower-bath and W.C.

He saw the Kaiser on various occasions and appears to have been much struck with his great popularity. A Major on the General Staff, whose information he came to regard as reliable, assured him that had it not been for the Kaiser, aid raids on London would have been started far earlier. The official attitude towards these raids was summed up as follows by the Major:—

"London is the heart and brain of this terrible war, and it should be given a taste of what war really is. A raid with some ten or fifteen of our latest Zeppelins would accomplish this thoroughly."

I was told that in February, 1915, twenty Zeppelins had been ready for a preliminary raid over London; but absolutely at the eleventh hour the plan had to be abandoned as the Kaiser refused his sanction.

"It was the same old story with our submarines," my informant continued, "it took us several months to persuade the Emperor that we had to meet force with force. The Bill was only signed about six weeks before it took effect. I suppose we must have patience a little longer with our Zeppelins. Anyhow, we have been over to leave our cards."

Concerning the Kaiser's desire to plunge Europe into war Mr. de Beaufort says:—

One of Herr Crass's relatives is a great friend of Prince Henry of Prussia, the Kaiser's brother. A few weeks after the declaration of war, this relative received a long letter from Prince Henry, in which he described the terrible scenes which were enacted at the Palace on August 1st, during the last hours before the Kaiser signed the order for general mobilisation. He said they had been heart-breaking. Telegram after telegram arrived from all parts of Europe, but those from Russia grew more and more ominous. Von Moltke, Falkenhayn, von Bethmann-Hollweg, Tirpitz, and the Crown Prince were present. The letter said that it took the Kaiser's advisers more than two hours before they could finally persuade him to append his signature to the edict that set the huge instrument of war in motion, and all Europe in flames. From the manner Herr Crass told me of this incident, and in view of the many reliable bits of interesting information he had supplied me with on previous occasions, I am forced to state that I feel inclined to believe his story of the letter without reserve.

So much has been said about the famous "Contemptible Little Army" phrase, attributed to the Kaiser, that Mr. de Beaufort's account of a talk with members of Hindenburg's staff on the subject is of interest. He says:—

Several of the officers present had been at the western front, and I carefully led the subject on to the "contemptible little army." I must tell you that I never yet met a German officer who admits that the expression was ever used by the Emperor. On the contrary, they all positively deny it. They main-

tained that he used the word "Armeechen," which, translated literally, means "little army." They said that the Kaiser, just as every German staff officer, knew too much about the British physique. That England was sometimes looked upon as a large aggregation of rifle clubs, and, anyhow, of sportsmen. . . . I wonder what they are thinking about "Kitchener's Army" now? They granted that the British were excellent fighters. I never met a German officer who spoke otherwise.

The Kaiser attended divine service at Kumpina on the Polish front and Mr. de Beaufort stood close beside him at the time. He says that the Emperor at that time bore unmistakable traces of wakeful nights. His eyes were sunken and hollow. His hair and moustache had become quite grey. Deep lines were drawn about the corners of his mouth and nose.

The personality of the Kaiser fascinated me. He stood there, straight as a dart, statue-like, silent and thoughtful. Every once in awhile he joined in the singing of the Psalms, but most of the time he was staring straight in front of him, with a vacuous and faraway look in his eyes, showing preoccupation of mind. He did not look at all the part of the great War Lord. It seemed almost inconceivable that the solitary, lonely-looking figure (somehow his surroundings seemed to have vanished from my mind's eye) should be the man who is largely responsible for this terrible world-tragedy.

The Kaiser is to-day the most popular idol in Germany, not even excepting Hindenburg. The confidence, the trust in him, is so general, so deep and so intense, that if Germany should from now on be steadily pushed back; if she were to lose every battle and be beaten to her knees, it would increase rather than weaken his popularity and the love his subjects have for him. It takes more than books on Germany, more than the vivid stories of war correspondents and "expert" articles by "famous" strategists, to make you understand the fanatical spirit of patriotism by which the German mind is imbued and obsessed. It is as unfathomable as the spirit of religion. From the moment that it is properly kindled, it is the most intense, the most sincere emotion they possess.

Mr. de Beaufort devotes a long chapter to the "Mobilisation of the Kitchen," a phrase, by the way, coined by the Crown Princess who has taken a prominent part in directing women's endeavour in Germany.

I was having tea one afternoon at the "Kaiserhof," with a captain of the War Office Staff, and I asked him, "Will you tell me where all your ladies are? I mean, where is society?" He looked at me with surprise "Why," he answered, "don't you know that all our women, our real German women, are mobilised as well as our

men? These are the days when the girls who have had a practical "Hausfrau" education are having their innings. We need the house-keeper and the nurse nowadays, not the Fraulein professor, doctor, advocate, or what not."

It is rather by her devotion to the kitchen, by her economy in food and ability to make the very most out of whatever was available that the German woman has most helped her country. "The women and girls with university degrees, stenographers, book-keepers, etc., thought their chance had come, but most of them were sadly disappointed. In the larger offices the heads of firms—if they were not called to the colours—replaced their own managers, working double time; the staffs were cut down to half, and so were the salaries."

The local administrative authorities are everywhere calling on the women for advice in matters in which women are—or should be—experts; housekeeping, catering for the wounded, nursing, the running of large kitchens for the poor, the opening of canteens at stations along the main lines where the troop trains pass. They are asked to direct sewing classes, to supervise the mending of uniforms and other wearing apparel. They are expected to help by exercising economy in the use and distribution of food. Professors of chemistry give special lectures all over the country to teach women the food value of every article of diet. In short, the demand for "Hausfrauen" is well-nigh as large as that for soldiers.

The workmen, too, appear to have fully realised the need for self-sacrifice and quickly showed that they did not propose to insist on payment for all that they did or to keep to their former hours:—

Of course I did not fail to meet Berlin's Lord Mayor, an elderly, very simple, homely German of the middle classes. His attitude was, as he expressed it, one of the "quiet, hopeful confidence in the ultimate outcome." He seemed to have been pleasantly surprised by the conduct of the Berlin Social Democrats, who, in pre-war days, had been his veritable bete noire. "They have come up to the scratch like real men and true Germans," he told me. "When we were somewhat puzzled about the organisation and distribution of our bread tickets, the Berlin trades' union headquarters placed four thousand of their members voluntarily at our disposal."

Mr. de Beaufort says, that for the most part when the endless troop trains passed him he heard little singing. The men were too tired.

When they were singing, it was as a rule a sentimental old song, with some new additions, called "I Had a Comrade." The words are somewhat like this:—

"I had a comrade, a better one you'd never find.

The drums called us to battle, and he marched at my side.

Gloria, Victoria, with heart and hand,
For the Fatherland, for the Fatherland.

"The birds in the forest are singing so sweet,

In the homeland, in the homeland, where once more we'll meet.

Gloria, Victoria, etc.

"A bullet then came a-flying; whom shall it strike, thee or me?

It hit him in the breast, and he lay at my feet.

He stretched out his hand, and bid me farewell,

In all eternity he will remain, my good old comrade."

This is the most popular German war song of the day. Except here and there in garrison towns, when troops were marching to or from the station I rarely heard "Die Wacht Am Rhein," or "Deutschland Ueber Alles." Those two songs are what is described as "order songs." The tempo of the "Good Comrade" is brisk, and it is easy to march to. The melody, like the words, was tender and sad, but very tuneful. The song itself is very old, but the "Gloria, Victoria," part is a war addition.

Odd bits of interesting military information are scattered throughout the book. We learn, for instance, that the Germans adopted steel helmets in October, 1914, but made no alteration in the appearance of the *Pickelhaube*. That they think more of their machine guns than they do of their famous 42 cm. cannon. That to transport an entire army corps (about 42,000 men) with its necessary paraphernalia 140 troop trains are required, and that he saw these trains passing uninterruptedly over a single track all day long at the rate of one every fifteen minutes, and so on.

Special chapters are devoted to the German Press propaganda and the spy system. Herr Erzberger, who has been so prominent recently, is, according to Mr. de Beaufort, not only Leader of the Catholic Party in the *Reichstag*, but Chief of the Press Bureau and formerly General German Press Agent and Press Manipulator in Italy. He is, says our writer, one of the most influential men in Germany to-day, next to the Chancellor, the Kaiser's most intimate adviser. Mr. de Beaufort gives an account of how neutral journalists are supplied with "made in Germany" interviews and discloses some of the shady methods employed in Germany to influence German and neutral opinion. It is for the

spy system, however, that he reserves his bitterest comments.

Altogether a book which tends to confirm the impression that the Germans are united and determined and convinced that they fight for their very existence. Though

admittedly strongly anti-German and pro-Allies Mr. de Beaufort shows an ability to see both sides and a willingness to recognise good as well as bad qualities in his enemies too often lacking in those who write on the war.

OTHER BOOKS.

Cassell and Co. have issued a popular edition of Mrs. Maud Ffoulkes's *My Own Past*, of which two editions were exhausted at the end of the year. The lady became a partner in Mr. Eveleigh Nash's publishing business and the revelations of their conduct gave the public, which is only too glad for such stirring stories, a delicious morsel to talk over when the affair came before the courts. But that is now an old story. What Mrs. Ffoulkes lacks in other respects she certainly makes up for in liveliness. She is evidently at bay, with her back to the wall, and writes with a marvellous want of restraint. She was introduced to literature by Mr. Douglas Sladen, who was once A.D.C. to a Victorian Governor. Her stories will immensely delight novel readers, who will turn to what she says about Richard Le Gallienne, Major Martin Hume, Algernon Blackwood, William Le Queux and Frank Richardson, with something very like amazement. The last (he was, but forty when he died) committed suicide the other day for fear that he would not secure public support for his novels. Read with the wise prevision that there is always another tale to be told by Mrs. Ffoulkes's enemies, the book gives a curious picture of the London of to-day.

Miss Joan Sutherland, whose book *The Locust* (Mills and Boon) has made its appearance here, has written a good many novels which seem hardly to have got the circulation they deserved. The first of them, *Cavanagh of Kullann*, was a very good attempt indeed to make the borders of Hindustan known to the English public. She has been unfortunate in her publishers, but, perhaps, this story may meet with a greater success. It deals with the scandal of a Cabinet Minister's life which his son—who bears the same name, takes on himself and flies to the unexplored parts of Africa, whither he is followed by the girl who loves him. The story is well told.

Among the few books that have had a wonderful sale in all Australian States is *Cappy Ricks*, by Peter Clyne, which has been circulating for more than a year past without any favourable reviews, and

George Robertson and Co. have now two large parcels coming out. It is an American book, and is as funny as Mark Twain was 30 years ago. The author is the master of a ship and spends most of his time between Japan and Port Pirie, writing his stories on board his trading vessel. The book shows that there is room for all the masters of fun without any dubious advertisements of their jokes.

On the other hand, the books by Mrs. Glyn may prove to knock the bottom out of this theory. She has just published *The Career of Katherine Bush*, which is, judging by the size of its circulation, a popular book. Mrs. Glyn writes almost invariably of the under-side of all civilisations and must find it an extremely paying way of earning a living.

Chance throws in my way an early copy of *The White Feather*, just brought by Melville and Mullen, whose success with Mrs. Brookes' *Fallen Idols* has further emboldened them to try their hand at fiction. The writer is Mrs. M. M. Phillips, who, as Ray Ellis, was well known before her marriage as one of the best intellects amongst the lady graduates of the Melbourne University. Many will remember a poem of poignant farewell in Miss Enid Derham's book of verses, with the recurrence of "Ada, Ada." Mrs. Phillips has contributed articles in the local press which seem to show that she has the power of writing, and her husband, once President of the A.N.A., and, like his father, a solicitor, possesses some weight as a lecturer on the later literature. The novel is a story of Melbourne to-day, showing how a man gets entangled and ending with his forgiveness by his right girl.

Among the most readable books of the last month, to appear in Australia, are *Dark Star* (R. W. Chambers), *Enchantment* (E. T. Thurston), *Fool Divine* (G. B. Lancaster), *A Long Lane's Turning* (H. E. Rives), *Married Life* (M. Edgington), *Secret Bread* (Tennyson Jesse), and *The Snare* (R. Sabatini), which all make good reading.

CATECHISM OF THE WAR—LIII

Q.—Is the President of the United States responsible to Congress?

A.—No, he is not responsible, and like the Kaiser, he selects the best men he can find for his Ministers, is not restricted to members of the House of Representatives, or to Senators, as is the case in England, the self-governing Dominions, and France. Mr. Lloyd George, however, has broken away from the British rule and has selected Ministers from outside Parliament, and in France, it is usual for the Minister of War and the Minister of the Navy not to be Members of Parliament.

Q.—What salary does the President get?

A.—He receives £15,000 a year, and an allowance of £5,000 for travelling expenses. There are nine Ministers, who form the Cabinet. Their salary is £2,400 each, and the Vice-President receives the same amount; so, too, does the Speaker.

Q.—How many Congressmen are there?

A.—There are 435 members of the House of Representatives. They receive a salary of £1,300 per annum, with an allowance, based on distance, for travelling expenses. Senators, of whom there are 96, receive the same remuneration.

Q.—How often are elections held in the United States?

A.—There is an election for the House of Representatives every two years. One-third of the Senators retire every two years, so that each Senator sits for six years in all.

Q.—Who elects the President of France?

A.—He is elected every seven years by an absolute majority of votes by the Senate and Chamber of Deputies sitting together. He selects his Ministers from the two Chambers, and has nothing approaching the executive powers of the President of the United States.

Q.—What salary does the French President get?

A.—The President of the Republic receives £24,000 with a further allowance of £24,000 for expenses. The Presidents of the two Chambers receive in addition to their ordinary salaries as members £2840 to cover the expenses of the entertainments they are expected to give.

Q.—How many Deputies are there?

A.—The Chamber is composed of 602 Deputies, who are elected on a male suffrage. Each citizen, twenty-one years old, not on military service, who can prove six months' residence in any one town or commune, has the right to vote. The Senate is composed of 300 members, elected for nine years by citizens who have attained the age of forty years. One-third of the Senators retire every three years. Senators and Deputies are paid £600 a year, and travel free on all railways.

Q.—Are there two Houses of Parliament in Italy?

A.—Yes, the Senate is composed of Princes of the Royal House, and an unlimited number of members above forty years of age, who are nominated by the King for life. It is a condition, however, that Senators must either fill a high office or have acquired fame in science, literature, or any other pursuit tending to the benefit of the nation, or pay taxes to the annual amount of £120. In 1916 there were 395 Senators and six members of the Royal Family. There are 508 Deputies in the Lower House. By the electoral law of June 30th, 1912, universal suffrage for men of twenty-one years and older, was introduced, but no vote was granted to men younger than thirty who had not performed their military service, or were unable to read or write. A Deputy must be thirty years old, and receives £80 a year to cover the expense of correspondence, etc. A further payment of £160 per annum is made to those Deputies who receive no income from any public funds whatever. All travel free on the railways. The House of Deputies is elected every five years, but can be dissolved at any time by the King. Ministers are not selected from among the members of Parliament, but may attend debates of both the Upper and Lower Houses, though they have no votes. There are fourteen Ministers.

Q.—Is the Prussian Herrenhaus as undemocratic a body as the House of Lords?

A.—It is generally supposed to be exceedingly undemocratic, but so is the House of Lords. The recently announced reforms which the Kaiser proposes would certainly make it far more representative of Prussia

as a whole than the House of Lords is representative of the United Kingdom. According to the cabled reports the Kaiser will directly appoint only 95 of the 400 members. The following comparison is interesting:—

Representatives of	Herrenhaus.	House of Lords
Agriculture	48	—
Commerce and Industry	48	—
Trade	12	—
Labour	24	—
Education	16	—
Clergy	17	26
Municipalities	36	—
Rural Communities	36	—
Land Owners	24	—
Mayors of large towns ...	20	—
Appointed by the King ...	96	—
Princes	24	3
Hereditary peers	—	621
Law	—	6
Totals	401	656

Q.—Could you tell me how much money the United States has lent to the Allies?

A.—Before they entered the war, the Americans had advanced the following sums:—

To	Dollars.
Great Britain	1,131,400,000
France	736,700,000
Russia	148,500,000
Italy	25,000,000
Canada	334,999,878
Newfoundland	5,000,000
	<hr/> 2,381,599,878

In addition some hundred million dollars were advanced to various Allied powers in the form of Bankers' Credits. Since they entered the war the Americans have advanced 1,868,000,000 dollars to the Allies, up to August 2nd. The amounts are as follow:—

To	Dollars.
Great Britain	955,000,000
France	530,000,000
Italy	160,000,000
Russia	175,000,000
Belgium	45,000,000
Serbia	3,000,000
	<hr/> 1,868,000,000

Since that date further advances have been made, of which details are not yet available. It is interesting to note that more than half of the loans granted by the Americans have gone to Great Britain. It is pretty obvious that these loans are made against supplies, and that none of the money ever leaves the United States. Instead of Great Britain sending to the United States £200,000,000 to pay for war material, meat and the like, the American Government pays the Ameri-

can producer and debits the British Government with the amount, plus whatever interest is agreed upon.

Q.—Has Japan ever lent the Allies any money?

A.—There has been no formal loan by Japan to any of the Allies until recently. The money advanced previously had as object the facilitation of settlement of liabilities incurred by the Allies in Japan for munitions and the like. But in August a special loan was raised in Japan for 100,000,000 yen, the object of which was to allow the holders of the Russian Treasury Bills maturing on September 25th to convert into the new loan. The result of the operation is, as far as the Russian Treasury Bills are concerned, that the debt is transferred from the Russian Government to the Japanese Government, which will thus become the creditor of the Russian Government and debtor to the Japanese public.

Q.—Is it true that Germany is supplying Switzerland with coal?

A.—Switzerland is obliged to obtain coal from Germany, as she can get it nowhere else, and has none of her own. The Germans, however, insisted that the Swiss should advance Germany a monthly commercial loan of 20,000,000 francs. This they have agreed to do. The loan is strictly limited to the circles of coal importers and practically means that these Swiss firms are paying twice over for the coal they get from Germany, but will ultimately receive half of it back again, when the loan is redeemed. Only by making this arrangement could the Swiss obtain 200,000 tons of coal monthly from Germany, at 100 francs (£4) a ton. The original price demanded by the Germans was 300 francs (£12) a ton, on the ground that the price of English coal in Northern Italy near the Swiss frontier is 335 francs (£13 9s.). They came down to the 100 franc basis only when the Swiss agreed to lend what practically amounts to 100 francs on every ton purchased by them from Germany.

Q.—You stated in your last number that the Danes were killing a certain proportion of their cattle, sheep and horses. Is the same practice being followed in other Scandinavian States?

A.—It must inevitably be followed, if the Allies prevent the importation of fodder, as would appear to be the case. In Sweden it was announced in August last that 20 per cent. of the cattle, viz., 175,000 head, would have to be slaugh-

tered owing to the inability to obtain fodder for them. Most of these beasts would probably go to Germany.

Q.—Are there many Treasury Bills now outstanding in Great Britain?

A.—By this time the amount outstanding probably exceeds £1,000,000,000. On August 18th the value of these Bills was £804,126,000. It will be remembered that when the amount of Treasury Bills outstanding reached £1,000,000,000 early this year, it was found necessary to raise a great loan in England.

Q.—What is the present rouble exchange on London?

A.—The usual exchange is 94.57 roubles to £10. In August, 1916, this had dropped to 154 roubles to £10. On August 24th, 1917, the rate was 227 roubles to £10.

Q.—Is there any record of the number of Japanese vessels sunk by the enemy since the war started?

A.—The number sunk up to June 20 last was fifteen, according to the Japanese correspondent of *The Economist*, aggregating 59,135 tons, of an estimated value of £3,000,000. The two largest sunk were the *Yasaka Maru* (10,932 tons) and the *Niyazaki Maru* (7891 tons).

Q.—Could you tell me how many American ships have been sunk by the Germans since the war began?

A.—Before the United States entered the war thirteen ships had been sunk. Between April 6th and August 30th, 24 more have been destroyed. The total tonnage of American vessels lost is estimated at about 110,000 tons. Only four American ships were sunk before Germany began her unrestricted submarine warfare.

Q.—Could you tell me how many lives have been lost on British merchantmen since the war began, owing to German submarines?

A.—From the beginning of the war till the end of June, 1917, it was announced in the House of Commons that 9748 lives had been lost as a result of enemy action. Of these 3828 were passengers (1150 went down on the *Lusitania*), and 5920 officers and seamen. On August 20th it was stated that the losses of officers and seamen had increased to 6637.

Q.—Is the value of ships still increasing?

A.—Yes, in Japan last June, a vessel was sold for £58 a ton. This was at that time a record, but in July a steamer of 1900 tons now building in a Japanese shipyard was purchased for £62 per ton,

and immediately afterwards a steamer of 3500 tons, which had just been completed, was sold for £68 a ton. The Japanese Government contemplates prohibiting the sale or charter of Japanese vessels to foreigners abroad.

Q.—How large is the American army to-day?

A.—The armed forces of the United States at the present moment probably number 1,500,000. The regular army was brought up to its full war strength of 300,000 men on August 9th, 182,000 volunteers having enlisted in it since April 1st. There were many volunteers for the navy, which brought the total naval force up to 137,000 men, and the marine corps to 50,000, while 45,000 men enlisted in the naval reserve, and the national naval volunteers. The National Guard was brought up to a strength of 300,000 by voluntary enlistments, and was then drafted into the Federal service. Each State in the Union has its separate National Guard, but Congress authorised the transfer of these troops to the Federal authorities. Thanks to the first transfer, the strength of the regular army and navy was brought up to 812,000 men. On September 1st, 687,000 men were conscripted to form the nucleus of what is known as the National Army. This brings the whole number of armed forces up to 1,500,000. It is well to note that the American land forces are divided into three distinct parts; first the regular army of 300,000 men, some divisions of which have already crossed the Atlantic; next, the National Guard, two divisions of which have already gone to France, or are on the eve of going; and, finally, the National Army, which started training in September, and is to be ready for transfer across the Atlantic in March or April of next year. This is the conscript army; the other two are filled by volunteers.

Q.—Are coloured men in the United States being conscripted?

A.—Yes. They will, however, be enrolled in special black regiments, as they were during the Civil War, and during the operations in the Philippines. On those occasions they were commanded by white officers, and undoubtedly they will be under the command of whites to-day. The black regiments have the same standing as the whites. In times of peace the only blacks in the navy were the stewards, and it is unlikely that they would fill any other positions even in war time.

Q.—Can you tell me just what length of front is held by the British in France?

A.—The latest information on the subject is contained in a letter written at the end of July by André Tardieu to the American Secretary of State for War. The western front, he said, has an extension of 739 kilometres

27 kilometres are held by the Belgians.
138 kilometres are held by the English.
574 kilometres are held by the French.

He said, further, that in June, 1917, there were 42 German divisions opposite the English, and 81 opposite the French. A German division holds an average front of 4 kilometres 700 metres. A French division holds an average front of 5 kilometres 500 metres.

Q.—Have the French greatly increased their output of heavy guns?

A.—Their output is very heavy now. In August, 1914, they had 300 guns grouped in regiments; in June, 1917, they had 6000. During the offensive which took place in July, but which, it will be remembered, did not succeed in its object, there was an average of one heavy gun for every 26 metres. Summing up all the trench, field, and heavy artillery, the French, according to M. Tardieu, have one gun to every eight metres. In August, 1914, the output in munitions was arranged for 3000 shots of 75's a day. It is now arranged for 250,000 shots of 75's and 100,000 shots of heavy guns daily.

Q.—Did her Allies supply France with many heavy guns?

A.—Apparently they supplied the French army with 800 heavy guns, but the French, it would seem, completely re-equipped and re-armed the Belgian, Serbian and Greek armies, in addition to providing for all their own requirements.

Q.—Could you tell me exactly how many British soldiers have been enrolled since the war began?

A.—The exact number has never been made public, but at the end of July Mr. Lloyd George made a statement in Paris to the effect that Great Britain had now between 5,000,000 and 5,500,000 soldiers enrolled, without counting the half-million or so in the navy and the million men from the Dominions and colonies. If all branches of the service be added together it would seem that the British Empire has no fewer than 7,000,000 under arms at the present moment. He said, at the same time, that 5,000,000 men and women were

now engaged in war work in the United Kingdom.

Q.—Has any estimate been made of the numbers killed, wounded and missing in all the belligerent armies since the war began?

A.—Estimates made at the end of the third year give the following results, but it is very doubtful if they are accurate. In these totals the slightly wounded are not mentioned at all :—

	Killed.	Seriously Wounded.	Capt'd. or Missing.	Total.
England—				
*298,988	177,224	182,452	658,664	
France—				
1,580,000	921,328	606,548	3,197,876	
Russia—				
2,062,064	1,223,476	1,243,006	4,528,636	
Italy—				
130,356	60,840	68,202	259,488	
Belgium—				
62,064	27,324	140,644	230,032	
Serbia—				
74,484	34,776	—	109,260	
Total—	4,207,956	2,444,068	2,340,032	8,992,056
Germany—				
1,908,800	958,612	704,128	3,571,540	
Austria—				
840,368	540,673	833,644	2,223,685	
Turkey—				
157,644	236,548	86,004	481,006	
Bulgaria—				
9,324	8,676	7,452	25,452	
Total—	2,925,136	1,744,509	1,632,128	6,301,773
Grand totals—	7,133,092	4,180,477	3,972,160	15,204,729

*Includes Canadian and Australian, but not Indian troops.

The latest German official casualty list, which was published in July, gives the following totals for Germany. From this it will be seen that the Germans only admit half the number of deaths as that given in the estimate made by American experts at the end of three years' war :—

Killed and died of wounds	1,032,800
Died of sickness	72,060
Prisoners	316,506
Missing	275,460
Severely wounded	500,883
Wounded	315,230
Slightly wounded	1,655,685
Wounded remaining with units	263,774

Total 4,523,307

Q.—Could you tell me how many prisoners are held in Germany?

A.—An estimate made last May stated that the Central Powers held altogether

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2,874,251 soldier prisoners. The particulars were as follow :—

Held by Germany	1,600,731
Held by Austria	1,002,055
Held by Bulgaria	67,582
Held by Turkey	23,903
Total	2,874,271
	(27,620 officers)

This total is made up as follows :—

	Total. In Germany.
Russian prisoners	2,080,600
French	368,607
Serbian	154,630
Italian	98,017
Roumanian	79,033
British	45,241
Belgian	42,437
Montenegrin	5,607

Q.—How many prisoners have the Allies taken?

A.—Up to May, 1917, it was estimated that 1,284,000 had been taken in all, the majority of these by Russia, but the particulars of the men taken by the Russian army are very vague and unreliable. According to this estimate, however, 800,000 prisoners were in Russia, 85,000 in England, 259,000 in France, and 80,000 in Italy.

Q.—Is it more costly now to cultivate wheat in Great Britain than it was before the war?

A.—It costs a great deal more to do so. The Board of Agriculture recently gave figures concerning the cost of growing an acre of wheat in 1917. Compared with the cost in the year before the war there is an increase of almost £4 per acre. The figures are rather interesting :—

	1913.	1917.
Cultivation, including depreciation on implements	£1 13 8	£3 0 7
Harvesting	0 15 10	1 9 2
Manures and share of cleaning expenses	1 2 9	1 18 10
Threshing and delivery	0 14 0	1 0 0
Seed, corn and pickling	0 12 5	1 2 0
Rent, rates and insurance	1 10 0	1 11 0
Interest on working capital	0 10 0	0 10 0
General expenses and sundries	0 19 3	1 3 11
	£7 17 11	£11 15 6

Q.—What is the war bread in Great Britain like?

A.—It has been found so injurious in some cases that the London Master Bakers' Protection Society declared recently that if the bread order were not revoked or amended

the baker, to safeguard the health of consumers, would be compelled to take drastic action. Marie Corelli, writing in *The Pall Mall Gazette*, says that the sooner drastic action is taken the better it will be for many ailing, suffering human creatures, and goes on : "The distinguished muddlers who are muddling with the grain seem to judge the fine and complex human organisation as somewhat tougher than shoe-leather and less liable to injury than pig iron." Carlyle, in his history of the French Revolution, thus referred to the bread troubles of those days :— "Complaints there are that the food is spoiled, and produces an effect on the intestines, as well as a smarting in the throat and palate, which a municipal proclamation warns us to disregard, or even to consider as beneficial. . . . But the Mayor of St. Denis, so black was his bread, . . . he, by a dyspeptic population, being hanged on *la lanterne* there." It is asserted that the war-bread is nothing like as sustaining as white bread, and workmen complain that they have to eat larger quantities, which at present prices, is a double hardship. It is, however, to children and elderly people that the greatest hardship comes, for it undoubtedly causes serious bowel and digestive troubles in these people. "I believe," says Mr. W. T. Bates, a scientific miller, "that it is seriously undermining the stamina and vitality of the nation at large." *John Bull* describes some of the bread now in the British market as the "most damnable concoction that ever came out of an oven. It is doubling up one-half of the population with indigestion and constipation, and the other half with vomiting and diarrhoea." A Manchester paper describes it as : "Colour, a drabish grey; odour, recognisably sour and suggestive of the swill tub; consistency, putty-like. You cannot make crumbs with it, only pastry pellets. The crust is tough instead of crisp, and when it burns it is blue-black like a black eye, and not the burnt black as of old."

Q.—Is Kerensky a Jew?

A.—He is pretty generally said to be a Jew, and those who have interviewed him since he became Prime Minister appear to regard him as of Jewish extraction. On the other hand, it is asserted that though he interested himself on behalf of the Jews in some of the notable political trials which took place recently in Russia, he himself is a Russian Slav by birth and ancestry, the son of a schoolmaster in the town of Saratoff on the Volga.

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS QUARTER.

The aggregate valuation of the gold yield of the world was about $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. less in 1916, than in 1915, but the yield in the Transvaal easily out-distanced all records.

The output of gold in the Commonwealth of Australia has steadily decreased since 1897, the proportion to the world's production being, in 1914, only 9.49 per cent.

According to Bradstreet's Journal there were "only" 1050 business failures in the United States during July this year, the smallest monthly total but one in forty-eight months.

The average consumption of cotton in the United States has more than doubled since 1897, the expansion being from 2,600,000 to 5,300,000 bales. America is now consuming about half the crop she produces.

South African official mining statistics convey the information that the total value of the stores consumed by the mining industry during 1916 was £13,995,258, an increase of £1,912,887 on the previous year.

An official bulletin, issued by the United States Treasury showed that while only 20 per cent., or 400,000,000 dollars, was due on 30th June, payments on account of the Liberty Loan on that date totalled 1,385,024,456 dollars.

Exports from U.S.A. for the fiscal year ended June 30th last, aggregated approximately 6,280,000,000 dollars as against 2,365,000,000 dollars for the same period in 1914, imports being 2,634,000,000 dollars and 1,894,000,000 dollars respectively.

Applications from invalids for permission to purchase white bread in Great Britain must be made direct to the Food Controller. The applicant is then supplied with a printed form upon which a medical man certifies that the superior flour is essential.

The British Association of Chambers of Commerce will consider at its next meeting a motion "that no subject of Germany.

Austria, Bulgaria, or Turkey, should be at liberty to hold land in Great Britain to a greater extent than a seven years' lease, without the consent of the Crown."

The production of over 1,000,000,000 bushels of wheat and over 83,000,000 bushels of rye, through the planting of 47,337,000 acres to winter wheat and of 5,131,000 acres of rye, is the immediate war agricultural programme for the nation announced by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Roumanian Minister of Finance has framed a scheme for the issue of short term Treasury Bonds, called "National Defence" Bonds, for periods ranging from three to twelve months, and bearing interest at 4 per cent., to replace the three-month 5 per cent. Bonds already issued.

The foreign trade of Canada showed a large increase during the first two months of the current fiscal year, imports and exports aggregating 408,606,873 dollars, as against 269,590,915 dollars for the corresponding period in 1916, an increase of 51 per cent. An expansion of 65,000,000 dollars was shown in exports and of 75,000,000 dollars in imports.

The total quantity of cane sugar produced throughout the world in the sugar season of 1911-12 was estimated at about nine million tons, to which India contributed about 2,450,000 tons, and Cuba 1,896,000 tons. The total quantity of beet sugar, produced in the same period, was approximately 6,800,000 tons. In the sugar season of 1915-16 the total quantity of sugar produced was about 16½ million tons, of which about 5,900,000 tons consisted of beet sugar.

The Natal sugar crop has risen from 30,000 tons in 1904-5 to 114,504 tons in 1916-17. The area under cultivation has also increased in proportion. The cane is now grown by over 400 planters, who reap their crop every two years, obtaining usually three crops from each planting, so that all lands cultivated require replanting every six years. In some cases in Natal the planters are also mill-owners, but Zulu-

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S.R.. 27/10/17.

War Savings Certificates

Obtainable at all Banks, Savings Banks, or Money Order Post Offices

17 6	will purchase a Certificate for	£1
£4 7 6	"	£5
£8 15 0	"	£10
£43 15 0	"	£50
£87 10 0	"	£100
£875 0 0	"	£1000

Payable 3 years from date of purchase.

Certificates are payable to bearer, are exempt from Wealth Levy, Commonwealth and State Stamp Duty, and **Interest** is free of Income Tax.

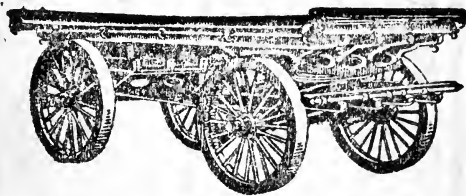
6^d War Savings Stamps 2/6

Obtainable at all Branches of **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** and all **Post Offices**. Booklets supplied free in which to affix stamps. When value reaches 17/6 they can be exchanged for £1 certificate.

Save and benefit yourself. Buy Certificates and benefit your country.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

October, 1917



HILDYARD PATENT STEEL-WHEELED WAGONS.

Used all over Australia. Wool Wagons, Farm Wagons, Orchard Wagons, Spring Wagons. Tyres any width. Wheels any height. Prompt delivery.

Send for Catalogue to-day.

**HILDYARD WAGON WORKS
KENSINGTON, MELBOURNE.**

Wright's Rheumatic Remedy

Two or three bottles of Dr. Wright's Remedy will cure most cases of Rheumatism, Sciatica, or Lumbago, but with **SIX** bottles purchased at one time a **Signed Guarantee** is given to **CURE OR REFUND MONEY.**

5s. 6d. Bottle. Six (with Guarantee), 33s.

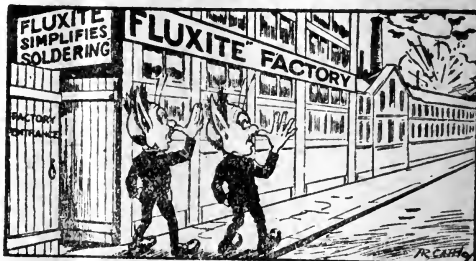
Sold by all Chemists and Stores.

The Reputation of our Agents demonstrates the genuineness of our Guarantee.

AGENTS :

ALL MERCHANTS.

*If not easily obtainable, write Box 320.
Melbourne.*



The Rabid Raid—
They thought they might
Have war-work stayed,
Hit they Fluxite.

FLUXITE

is used in the making of shells and other munitions because it effects a great saving in time, thus increasing the output of labour and plant. **BOTH** Amateurs and Mechanics the world over **WILL** have Fluxite. It

SIMPLIFIES SOLDERING

Of Ironmongers and Stores in small and large tins.

Auto-Controller Co., 272 Vienna Road,
Bermondsey, England.

land planters send their cane to central mills.

Refinery production of copper in U.S.A. during June was estimated at 200,000,000 lb., that total including both the output of American mines and copper imported and treated at the refineries in the States. The total output of refined copper during the first six months of 1917 was estimated at 1,055,000,000 lbs. Imports of copper for the first half of the current year were given at 265,967 lbs.

Local hardware exporters will probably be interested to learn (if they are not already in possession of the information) that in British Malaya there is a good demand for ironware goods as distinct from cooking utensils and tools, instruments and implements, and hardware and cutlery, which are classified separately, and the steady development of the Malay Peninsular is likely to lead to a greater demand for manufactured goods when business resumes normal conditions. The trade statistics of the Straits Settlement show that the value of imports and exports for the year 1913 was £388,376 and £206,750 respectively, and in 1916, imports totalled £376,834 and exports £346,580.

Almost unanimously the eight Commissioners appointed by the Government to investigate the causes of industrial unrest in Great Britain have mentioned the high cost of foodstuffs as the prime cause of the troubles which they were appointed to investigate. "There is no doubt," they report, "that this is the chief cause of industrial unrest, and that if the Government can solve this problem satisfactorily, and can assure to all workers and their women and children a fair portion of the necessities of life, it would go far to solve the problem of industrial unrest. All the witnesses we examined put this in the forefront, and stated very emphatically that in their opinion the problem had been too long neglected. The best and most thoughtful of employers, men, women, and social workers, all tell us that if we intend to win this war we have got to supply the necessities of life to the working population. They believe that it can be done, and they expect the Government to do it."

Coal mined in the United States during 1916 amounted to 78,195,083 gross tons, valued at 202,009,561 dollars, a decrease in quantity of 1.6 per cent., and an increase in value of 9.4 per cent. compared with 1915. Shipments abroad decreased 1.7 per cent.—from 68,666,456 gross tons in 1915 to 67,501,363 tons in 1916. There was an increase of nearly 6 per cent. in the quantity of anthracite sold in the States and used by employees, and a decrease of 2.4 per cent. in the quantity used for mine fuel. There was a large decrease in the number of men employed in the production of anthracite coal in 1916 and the output was maintained only through an increase in the number of working days. The number employed in 1914 was 179,679, and in 1916, 159,869; the average number of days worked in 1914 being 245, and in 1916, 253; average output per man per day 1.84 gross tons as against 1.93 tons, and the average output per employee for the year was 451 tons in 1914, and 489 tons in 1916.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company has concluded the purchase from the British Public Trustee of the British Petroleum Company, the Homelight Oil Co., Ltd., and the Petroleum Steamship Co., all the shares of which were held by the Europaische Petroleum Union, a German company in which the Deutsche Bank held the controlling interest. The properties acquired include a large fleet of tank steamers, fifteen large ocean landing and storage installations, with tankage of a capacity of 185,000 tons, 520 smaller inland depots, 535 railway tank waggons, over 1100 motor and other road vehicles, and land, houses, etc., in various parts of the United Kingdom. The Anglo-Persian Oil Co., was formed in 1909, and just before the war a contract was entered into by the company to supply the British Government with oil fuel, and the Government agreed to subscribe for 2,000,000 ordinary and 1000 preference shares, and for debenture stock up to a total of £199,000. It retains the right to elect two ex-officio directors to the board of the company and its subsidiaries, who can negative any resolutions of the board, subject, however, to the right of the company to appeal to the Government.

ESPERANTO NOTES.

The Esperanto Monthly prints the following:—

"A NEW ZEALANDER IN FRANCE. — While in France on active service with the New Zealand army I have had several experiences which will be of interest in young Esperantists who have not yet enjoyed the privilege of conversing with Esperantists of other lands.

"We were billeted near the town of —, where I knew from an announcement in *The British Esperantist* that an Esperanto course was in progress. While purchasing postcards in a shop I spoke to madame about the Esperanto course, concerning which she gave me directions. It was with some little excitement I knocked at the door of a large house. Esperanto had been to me a faithful companion for three or four years, and now it was to be put to the supreme test. I wondered whether the pronunciation as taught in New Zealand would meet the ordeal with safety. A gentleman answered the summons, and I noticed immediately the green star of Esperanto.

"Bonan vesperon, sinjoro." (Good evening, sir), I somewhat timidly ventured. "Salutojn, samideano. Kiel vi sanas? Envenu, mi petas" (Salutations, fellow Esperantist. Are you well? Come in, I beg of you), and I was quickly ushered into Esperanto land. My misgivings were all groundless, for the Esperanto of this French gentleman was exactly the same as I had been daily associated with in New Zealand.

"Not once did we hesitate for an expression, and not once did miscomprehension arise. Esperanto fulfilled every requirement. We spoke on matters of interest to our respective countries. M. Deligny (for it was the famous French Esperantist whom I had met), conversed on life in France before the war, the habits and customs of the people, and of various topics. In my turn I told him of our beautiful islands down in the sunny Pacific, of the people, social life and education. The evening passed all too quickly.

"The following evening I spent amongst a large collection of Esperanto books. Mon-

sieur was editor of *The Norda Gazeto*, and received many works from the Esperanto press for review purposes. There were fictional, dramatic, poetic, scientific and other classes of books, both original and translated. Here a book-lover could have spent many delightful hours with the authors of many lands. An evening or two later we strolled down the main streets to the chief places of interest. M. Deligny was very prolific in his explanations and descriptions. We spent quite a time in the Lycee, where Monsieur is engaged as Professor of French, and also conducts an Esperanto course among the pupils. These experiences with Esperanto considerably interested many of the soldiers, and already I have procured a number of grammars for them.

"Needless to say I was deeply impressed with the practical demonstration of the utility of the international language. Here was I from the distant Dominion of New Zealand, who had acquired a knowledge of the simple tongue, conversing fluently with a foreigner without the slightest hesitancy. My experiences would have been the same had I been in any other country. It will well repay the reader, if as yet unacquainted with Esperanto, to learn this facile auxiliary tongue. Seize the passing opportunity and place at command the golden key to knowledge—Esperanto!—Bertram Potts."

The Melbourne Esperantists will shortly present at the Austral Salon a play, written in Esperanto, by one of their number, entitled "Balboni, Mansfield kaj Vojechele, Bankieroj" (Balboni, Mansfield and Vojechele, Bankers).

Readers of STEAD'S REVIEW interested in Esperanto should communicate with the nearest Esperanto Society, "Komerca Esperanto Klubo," or Esperanto Societo Melbourne, both at Box 731, Elizabeth P.O., Melbourne; "Zamenhofa Klubo," 223 Stanmore Road, Stanmore, N.S.W.; Mr. W. D. Smith, Mail Branch, G.P.O., Adelaide; "Hobarta Esperanto Grupo," 7 Glen Street, Hobart; Mr. C. Kidd, O'Mara Street, Lutwyche, Brisbane; Mr. T. Burt, Stott's College, Perth.

GREAT ART UNION

— OR —

Miniature Picture Campaign

— IN AID OF THE —

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL

MELBOURNE

1 QUESTION—What does this Campaign mean?

1 ANSWER—That there are 500,000 little pictures to be sold at 1/- each in aid of St. Vincent's Hospital.

2 QUESTION—What does Mr. Wren's offer of £5000 mean?

2 ANSWER—That, if all the pictures are sold, Mr. Wren will give £5000 to the person holding the selected picture.

3 QUESTION—If all the pictures are not sold, what will happen then?

3 ANSWER—Mr. Wren will give £1000 instead of £5000.

4 QUESTION—If I buy one or more pictures, what will that mean?

4 ANSWER—That you may hope to receive, for one of them, the sum of £1000 or £5000.

5 QUESTION—Is this the only chance I have?

5 ANSWER—No. You have 49 other chances. You may get a second prize of £120, a third prize of £100, a fourth prize of £50, a fifth prize of £25, or one of forty-five other prizes of £5 each.

EACH PICTURE IS NUMBERED


Help the Suffering Poor!

Should you wish to buy the well-bound Album for **£5 5s.**, you will have 100 Pictures artistically arranged, and these should be of interest to you and your friends. The brief account given of each picture makes interesting and instructive reading.

The selected picture may be one of those contained in any of the albums.

There are **100 Albums** for sale at **£5 5s.** each.

Campaign Closes 30th November, 1917

 Money for Pictures must be received at the Hospital on or before 30th November, 1917.

ADDRESS—THE SECRETARY, St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.

THE SUMMER FASHIONS AT ANTHONY HORDERNS'

Ladies who wish themselves and their daughters to be fashionably, yet economically, attired should obtain a copy of **ANTHONY HORDERNS' SUMMER FASHION BOOK**, posted free on request. This interesting publication depicts a selection of the latest fashions in ladies' and maids' wear, and is an authoritative guide as to the prevailing modes. Here are three examples:



No. Fx7—

Robe in Crepe-de-Chine

Mole, Saxe, White or Black. Blouse is embroidered in dainty coloured Silks. Suitable for maids 16 to 19 years.

Sizes—48, 45in., 75/6;
42in., 72/6.

No. Fx4—

Coat and Skirt in Fawn Sicilian

Loose Sac, high-belted, Flared Skirt. Fashionable Costume for maids 16 to 19 years.

Sizes—8, 75/6;
7, 72/6.

No. Fx10—

Coat and Skirt in White Pique

Coat semi-fitting, three-piece Flared Skirt, fitting girls 14 to 19 years.

Sizes—8, 27/6;
7, 26/6; 6, 25/6.

Anthony Hordern & Sons Ltd.

ONLY UNIVERSAL PROVIDERS
NEW PALACE EMPORIUM

BRICKFIELD HILL, SYDNEY

